

Distilled Spirituous LIQUORS
THE
BANE of the NATION :
BEING SOME
CONSIDERATIONS
Humbly offer'd to the
LEGISLATURE.

By which it will appear,

- I. That the LANDED INTEREST suffers near a Million a Year, by the *Distilling, Compounding* and *Vending* of SPIRITS; with some REMARKS relating to the REVENUE: — And the FRAUDS of the BRITISH DISTILLERY Expos'd and Detected.
- II. A PHYSICAL ACCOUNT (drawn from EXPERIMENTS and the Opinions of the most Eminent PHYSICIANS) of the NATURE of all DISTILL'D SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS, and the Malignant Effects they have upon Human Bodies.

The SECOND EDITION, Improv'd and Enlarg'd; with a
NEW INTRODUCTION.

To which is added

An APPENDIX,

Containing

The late PRESENTMENTS of the Grand-Juries of *London, Middlesex*, and the *Tower-Hamlets*: Together with the Report made by His Majesty's Justices of the Peace at *Hicks's Hall, Jan. 1735-6.*

L O N D O N :

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AVING in this New Edition of this little Treatise thrown what I had to say by way of Preface, into the following INTRODUCTORY DISCOURSE, I shall only observe in this Place;—That in the Part relating to the LANDED INTEREST, I have had the Assistance of a Worthy Gentleman, who has had the Care of a large Estate for some Years past; and have also consulted some Eminent Farmers in different Parts of the Kingdom; and I can see no Reason, from any thing I have yet read to the contrary, to alter either my Calculations or Observations from them.—Whoever thinks them too high, may lessen the First Number of Gin-Drinkers One Half, if he pleases,—and there will still remain a Loss to the Landed Interest in the Demand for the Consumption of all the other Produce of the Kingdom, enough to over-balance any pretended Gain, by the Distillers taking off vast Quantities either of bad or good Corn.—And then we have the decreasing and weakning, the debasing the Natures, and depraving the Morals of

Thousands of the laborious Part of the Nation, and the Ruin and Deaths of Generations to come, to throw into the Scale, which ought to weigh down all other lesser and collateral Considerations.

In the PHYSICAL ACCOUNT, I have been very much indebted to an Ingenious and Learned Gentleman, well known and admir'd by the whole Faculty (tho' not of that Honourable Body) and whose nice and curious Experiments, have struck out many new and surprizing Discoveries in that Science. — The Publick may be assur'd, that what is said from him is Matter of Fact, CONSEQUENCES drawn from repeated EXPERIMENTS : I have also submitted this Part to the Judgment of some Eminent Physicians, who have given their Approbation of it. — I have taken the Liberty of putting their Sense into plainer Words, avoiding as much as possible all TERMS OF ART, this Piece being designed for Common Apprehensions, and the general Benefit of BOTH SEXES.





A N

Introductory Discourse

S H E W I N G T H E

Fatal Consequences of the habitual drinking of distill'd Spirituous Liquors.



STRONG Waters, says an eminent Physician *, " should never be taken but by " the Direction of a Physician, or in the " Agonies of Death: For, *adds he*, when " Persons arrive at that State, that these " Liquors become necessary to their Ease " and Freedom of Spirits, they may be " justly reckon'd among the Dead, both as to the short " Time they have to live, and the little Use they can be of " either to Themselves or Mankind." We see from hence, what unnecessary and what superfluous Things these Liquors are, and how well it would be for the Publick to have such a Trade restrain'd, and its Followers reduc'd to smaller Numbers. " Strong Liquors, says " the same excellent Author, were never design'd for " common Use. They were formerly kept in *England*, " as other Medicines are, in *Apothecaries Shops*, and " prescrib'd by Physicians as they do *Diascordium* and " *Venice-Treacle*."

Every one who now passes thro' the Streets of this great Metropolis, and looks into the Distillers Shops, and those who deal in Spirituous Liquors,

* Dr. Cheyne in his Essay on Health.

must see, even in Shops of a creditable and whole-sale Appearance, a Croud of poor ragged People, cursing and quarrelling with one another, over repeated Glasses of these destructive Liquors. These Sights we may behold at all Hours of the Day, in most Strong-Water Shops, even in the High-Streets; and I am informed, that in some of the Suburb Parts, it is much worse; particularly in one Place not far from *East-Smithfield*, that such a Trader has a large empty Room backward, where as his wretched Guests get intoxicated, they are laid together in Heaps, promiscuously, Men, Women, and Children, till they recover their Senses, when they either proceed to drink on, or having spent all they have, go out to find wherewithal to return to the same dreadful Pursuit; and how they procure more Money for this Purpose, many of them, the Sessions-Paper too often acquaints us.

As this Infection daily spreads, if some sudden Stop be not put to it, we may justly apprehend, That the evil Consequences will be multiplied to such a Degree, that a Remedy may come too late. We see the Trade daily increasing, and that not only by the fairer Method of Succession by Apprenticeships to regular Distillers, but by Retailers in every Corner, who leave other Employments to fall into This, encourag'd by the general Depravity of the lower Class of People, who run into a Taste for these pernicious Liquors, and find it always at Hand, in every Street, Alley, and Corner, tempting them to a Vice in which their depraved Inclinations want no Furtherance. To this, with the greatest Likelihood, we may justly impute that Deluge of Vice and Immorality, which, more then ever within these few Years, has overspread the Nation: To this is probably owing, That the Murders, and Robberies we have of late abounded with, are not only more *frequent*, but more *barbarous*, than ever: That those dismal Acts, the Perpetration of which were wont to be confined to the *dark and dead Night*, or to the *distant and private Road*, are now committed in *open Day*, or *early Twilight*, and that in our very high Streets, both on Persons in *Coaches* and on *Foot*; And hence, not improbably, proceed the frequent firing of Houses, and the unparallel'd Attempts of Incendiaries: For what can be more evident than such Causes

Causes must produce such dreadful Effects, when every Street and Alley affords several Receptacles for Wretches to sally out from, as they see Opportunity, as from so many *Garrisons*, upon their meditated Prey? When the Opportunity is so *near at Hand*, that there is not Room for *intervening Reflexion*? When their *Retreat* is so well secur'd by such Places of Shelter, many of which are at the same Time Harbours of those wicked Women, who put them upon their Villainies, and participate in their Plunder, or at least in the Drunkenness and Riot which is occasion'd or defray'd by it? And when the Drunkenness occasion'd by these detestable Liquors, is of a *deeper* and more *holding Nature*, and fires and inflames the Blood and Passions so much, that it makes those who are possessed by it mad and desperate, and ready to engage in the most bold and daring Mischiefs; insomuch that when once intoxicated by these wretched Liquors, a young Beginner in a villainous Course, is *at once* harden'd to Mischief, and made capable of Attempts that would have shock'd him at *first setting out*, and vies with the most *practised* and *abandon'd* Villain?

But not to dwell on this more dreadful and shocking Part of the Scene, we may hope the Evil worthy of publick Redress, were it only for the sad Consequences that attend it, with regard to the Servants and lower Class of People. 'Tis incredible to conceive the Mischiefs that arise only from the dispensing these Liquors at *Chandlers Shops* to our *Female Servants*. These would be asham'd to go to a *Brandy-Shop* or an *Ale-House*, because it would appear at once for what they went thither; but the *Chandlers-Shop* furnishes so many little Necessaries to a Family, that there they can unsuspected resort and indulge themselves in them: All the little Secrets of private Families, with disreputable Aggravations, are here divulged and retailed: Grievances, pretended or real, are appealed to this scandalous Bar: Disobedience is here propagated, Gossiping promoted, and new Acquaintances with the Servants of other Families sowed and cemented over these Liquors. *Less Weights* and *Measures*, and *extravagant Prices*, are connived at for a little paltry Treat of Strong-waters: In short, innumerable Evils continually flow from this almost imperceptible Fountain; promotive of that *General*

neral Corruption in Servants, which every private Family feels and complains of, but cannot remedy.

If it be objected, that there are Laws already in Force, which, if duly executed, would cure a great Part of the Disease, that of the *unlicens'd Shops*; we answer, That the Malady is grown to such a Head, that it is beyond the Power of the Civil Magistrate to repress it; and when the Laws are either *defective* in themselves, or attended with *insuperable Difficulties* in the *Execution*, nothing less than the Legislative Authority can find a Remedy adequate to the Evil. Few care to give *Informations*, and those from whom they ought to be expected, are perhaps themselves the *Aggressors*.

When a *Justice of Peace*, inspired with a true Publick Spirit, meets, with Inferior Officers of Courage and Intrepidity, and sets about a Reformation of the *Unlicensed Houses*, he finds himself surrounded with Numbers of *Pettyfogging Attorneys* and *Sollicitors*, who watch his Steps, and if there happens to be the least Flaw in the Method of drawing up and managing the several Processes, he finds himself obliged to attend a *Certiorari* in the *King's-Bench*; where failing in some Circumstances, the whole Proceedings are quash'd, and the Magistrate, who has been at a great Expence, has the Mortification to see the impudent Fellow triumph over him, and increase his iniquitous Trade.

'Twere a vain Thing, to attempt to speak to the *deaf Ears of Interest* on this Occasion, and to hope, in such an Age as the present, to find Persons who reap a Benefit by this pernicious Trade, to submit willingly to a Regulation so necessary to the publick Good; by which, however, they would make the best Atonement in their Power, for the Mischiefs they have been the Instruments of bringing upon their Fellow-Creatures.

Such, no doubt, as *can*, will plead, " That they have served their Times to a Trade; which it will be hard " to prohibit them from pursuing:" And they will exert themselves, by all imaginable Methods, to oppose every Step affecting themselves, that may be taken to redress this crying Evil: But let us, notwithstanding, offer a few Arguments, even to such Men, that, 'tis hoped, will weigh down all their Pretences to particular Hardships in this Case.

And

And first, I would beg leave to bring a Parallel Argument to these Persons, and see how this Plea will hold: The Wisdom of Parliament generally provides, as much as possible, for the Preservation of private Right; but when a greater Good is to be effected, the lesser is obliged always to give way to it; and 'tis very fit it should be so. The Country Gentlemen and Farmers, no doubt, would choose to send their *Wool* to *France*, as a Market where they can get a much better Price for it: Why are they hinder'd? For this good Reason, *Because it would be a National Evil*. And why may not any other Set of Men be restrain'd from the like Consideration, and their Labour, Industry, and Riches turn'd into another Channel for the publick Good?

And how much more reasonably may this be done in the present Case, where so much Mischief accrues to the Publick by the Use of these pernicious Liquors? Where the Evil is so Epidemick, that the greatest Part of the Nation, that Part which is the *Strength* and *Riches* of every Country, the *Laborious Hands*, is intoxicated and enervated by a fatal Love of a *slow but sure Poyson*, which enters into the *Blood* and *Marrow* of its *habitual* Drinkers, and transmits its deadly Effects into the *Virals* of their *miserable Posterity*, on whom, in all Probability, it will have such terrible Consequences, that in a Generation or two we shall not have People able to do the *Servile Offices*, or to *cultivate our Lands*.

It is moreover to be considered, That all wise Legislatures, and particularly our own, have always peculiarly thought themselves concerned to dictate to *private Traders*, in Regard to the *Prices*, and *Qualities*, and *Goodness* of those *essential Particulars* which regard the *Food* and *Nourishment* of their People.

The *Butcher*, the *Baker*, the *Brewer*, are all more immediately cognizable by the Legislature, as it is its laudable Concern to see the Poor supply'd at reasonable Rates with *wholesome* Food and Drink, which are the prime Necessaries of Life: And shall an *upstart Trade*, introduc'd upon the *Luxury* and *Depravity* of the Age, and which, as will be shewn in the following Pages, by its immoderate Use, lessens the Consumption of all those other *nourishing* and *wholsome* Viands, which are the *Staffs of Life*, and the Support of the *Landed Interest*; shall *such* a Business, so infinitely mischievous, and which

is not absolutely *necessary* in any one Branch of Life, claim an Exemption from the Cognizance of the Magistrate? In a Mortification, a *Limb* is to be parted with, rather than the *whole* Body should suffer. In the *Plague*, it is lawful to confine a Few within a certain District, tho' it be almost certain Death, rather than hazard the Infection's being spread thro' a whole Country: And in a *Fire*, 'tis never disputed whether a few Houses should be blown up, to prevent the Flames spreading thro' a whole Town. And all this for the best Reason in the World; *viz.* That the *Properties*, and even the *Lives*, of a *Few*, must be sacrificed to the *Health, Utility, Safety, and Welfare* of the *whole* Community.

Some People have objected against a Regulation on Pretence that the *Revenue* will suffer a Diminution thereby: But, surely, they do not think so well of His MAJESTY, as so gracious and excellent a Prince deserves, (were there any Weight in the Objection) to imagine, that His MAJESTY would not most willingly suffer a Diminution in his *Royal Revenue*, rather than his People should be so great Sufferers by this destroying Evil: Or that, if the Diminution were *considerable*, that the Representatives of a *Loyal and Dutiful* People, would not have the *Gratitude* to make up the *Difference* to a SOVEREIGN, who prefers the *Good* of his *Subjects* to the *Interests* of his *Crown*, and thinks the *former* the *Glory* and *Security* of the *latter*. But, on due Consideration, it will be found, that the *Revenue*, after a little while, will be no Sufferer; for the Consumption of *Malt Liquors*, the *natural* and *wholesome* Drink of this Kingdom, will go a great Way to repair that Loss, as we shall more particularly observe in the subsequent Pages; and the Difference to the *Landed Interest*, with regard to the *solid* and *substantial* Food with which this Nation so much abounds, in which the *Crown* will find its Account, as well as in the *renew'd Health* and *Strength* of the *laborious Poor*, will be inexpressible; to say nothing of what, however, merits no small Consideration, the Difference of the Service in the one Case or in the other, that would be done in time of War, by Men kept in *Heart* and *Vigor* by *proper* and *nourishing* Food, and by such as are emaciated in *Body* and *sunk* in *Spirit*, by the Use of these *debilitating* Liquors. For, as an eminent Physician well observes, "Two Ounces of *Flesh-Meat*, well digested,

" beget

“ beget a greater Stock of more *durable* and *useful* Spirits, than ten times as much strong Liquors, which
 “ are too *volatile*, and *fugitive* for any *solid* or *useful*
 “ Purposes in Life.

Wine it self, habitually used as a common Diluter, at Meals, &c. without Water, is of bad Consequence to Health; “ for, says the same Author, we see by daily
 “ Experience, that (as *natural Causes* will always produce
 “ their *proper Effects*) their Blood becomes inflamed in-
 “ to Gouts, Stone and Rheumatism, raging Fevers, Pleu-
 “ risies, Small Pox, or Measles; their Passions are in-
 “ raged into Quarrels, Murder and Blasphemy; their
 “ Juices are dried up; and their Solids scorched and
 “ shrivelled.” If this be the Effects of a constant and
 habitual Use of *undiluted Wine*, what must be the Case
 of Drams, so many times more corrosive, poisonous and
 burning! How must the *Juices* be dry’d up and
 the *Solids* scorch’d by them? But indeed, as Wine
 too much *enriches* the Blood in *some* Cases, and makes it
 productive of Gouts, Fevers, Pleurisies, &c. distill’d *Sp-
 rituous Liquors*, in *all* Cases, *impoverish* the whole Mass,
 and by an habitual Use of them, the plumpest and heal-
 thiest Bodies are soon emaciated, the radical Moisture
 dried up, and the strongest Men reduced to *Skeletons*.

Were it possible for me, to express suitably my hearty
 Concern for the Welfare of my Fellow-Subjects, I should
 not despair of finding some good Effects attend this my
 poor Attempt for their Service, which can have no other
 Inducement or Motive, than their *present Health* and *fu-
 ture Happiness*. At least, I should hope, that such of my
 Readers, whose Education and Knowledge of the World,
 should make their Examples of use to the *Under-Ranks*
 of Men, would favourably receive my humble Expostu-
 lations on this Head. To such however, it is impossible
 I should be able to say more than their good Sense will
 suggest to them on this Subject, and therefore I shall not
 expatiate upon it, with regard to them.

The Subject is still *more* tender with regard to the
softer and *more delicate* Part of the Creation. My Mind
 is wounded but to think of imputing any Share of this
 Depravity to them. But, alas! ’tis too well known to
 be concealed, and it would be in vain to endeavour to
 draw a *Veil* upon a Vice that is always attended with
open Effects; and, like Murder, will not long lie hid,

where-ever it is practis'd, however secret the *fair Practiser* of it imbibes the fatal Mischief. Yet is the Subject too delicate to be insisted upon; I must, however, just observe, that as it is always attended with the most terrible Consequences, to their *Posterity*, as well as to themselves, that most excellent Part of the human Species, whose principal Glory is their *Affection* to their *innocent Infants*, would do well to reflect upon the Shockingness of a Fault, which intails Misery upon their *harmless Progeny* as long as they live; and often *cuts asunder the Thread of Life* as soon as it is *spun*; of which *innumerable Examples* might be given; but I shall here content myself with the two following, which are undoubtedly true, and in which every one of the Sex, as in a Glass, may see the Consequences that must inevitably attend upon this pernicious Habit.

The first Instance is that of a LADY in the Flower of her Age, unhappily given up to the drinking of these pernicious Liquors. The Effect it had upon her miserable Offspring was lamentable. She had several Children born strongly mark'd with the emaciating Consequences of the Mother's Fault; but they dy'd in the Month; and at last she had one of which she was, with much Difficulty, and by the Help of a Man, deliver'd, all shrivell'd and black, and grievous to behold, which having no Strength to help itself into the World, dy'd in the Birth. The Doctor told the unhappy Lady, when he visited her after she had been delivered near a Month, that he thought it his Duty to acquaint her, that she must *change her Liquors*, or, in all Probability, the next Time she was with Child, she would not survive her Delivery.

This, together with the tender Remonstrances of her Husband, who had encourag'd the Doctor (on the Information he had from him, of the Danger she would be in) to deal so freely with his Wife, had some Effect upon her Mind: but it was her hard Lot soon after to bury her Husband, and then she return'd to the old Habit, and after about a Year's Widowhood, marrying again, she dy'd of her first Child by the second Marriage, just as the unhappy Infant was brought into the World, dead, shrivell'd, deform'd, and discolour'd as the former.

These Children might be said to be happy, in that they were never punish'd with a Life so miserable as that of another, now about three Years old, the unhappy Offspring
of

of a Lady of good Fortune, whose Family and Husband a Friend of mine intimately knows. This Lady was addicted much to the Love of these baneful Liquors, and began with *Barbados Waters*, which her Husband, at the Request of her Mother, a Lady of Piety and Virtue, refusing her, she sunk into a Taste for the lowest *English* Spirits she could procure, and being likely (as her Physician told her, because of the wretched Habit she had contracted) to have no other Child to inherit a plentiful Estate, which her Husband possesses in her Right, and is limited to *her* Descendants only, she was determin'd, by a well-intended Tenderness, to suckle This herself. She held her Purpose for about three Months, during which Time, the Child, tho' small at first, declining daily, she put it out to a wholesome sober Nurse: But the Poison it had suck'd in *before* and after its Birth, from its *unhappy Mother*, was so prevalent, that all the *Art of Physic*, all the *Care of its Nurse*, could not recover the Mischief, and cloath its *little half-dry'd* Bones, with ought but a shrivell'd fallow Skin. It has now the Look of an old wither'd Baby, its Skin loose and wrinkled; for it has no Flesh; and is no bigger than one of a Month old, and no more able to walk or stand than it was at that Age; and yet lives, if we may say *lives*, by the Help of Art, a miserable *Memento* of its wretched Mother's unnatural Habit. She herself, poor Lady! has been long unable to see the Child without Grief; and, miserable as is the Life it drags on, 'tis likely now it seems to be of a longer Date than her's; for she is at this Time languishing under the *last Stage of a Consumption*, and die when she will, leaves no Child behind her, that has Cause to *bless*, but the *contrary*, her Memory, for giving it a Life so miserable!

I need not, I dare say, add any Thing to aggravate the Horror of these sad Examples. To be the Means of bringing Children into the World only to be miserable, is such a shocking Thought, as may strike even the most abandon'd with some Degree of Remorse! But the Subject is too tender, as I have hinted, to dwell upon; and I will therefore quit it; and, oh! that there had been no Occasion to say so much upon it, to this more *delicate* Part of our Species!

The People in *middle Life*, and particularly the Tradesmen of this great City, are running more than ever into the

the drinking the Liquor called PUNCH, and new Houses for propagating this Kind of Beverage are erecting every Day, and advertis'd in our News-Papers for the dispensing of it at cheaper Rates than formerly, to draw to them a greater Number of Customers : We must own, that this Liquor is somewhat preferable to what they call *dry Drams* ; but yet 'tis an undoubted Truth, that let distill'd spirituous Liquors be qualify'd as they may, they will enter Fire into the Blood. The Physician, who knows the component Parts of this fashionable Mixture, and their Consequences upon the human Machine, is the best Judge of the Effects, and hear what a very eminent One says on this Occasion. " Next to Drams, says he, " no Liquor deserves more to be stigmatiz'd than *Punch*. " 'Tis a Composition of such Parts, as not one of them " is salutary or kindly to the Constitution, excepting the " pure Element in it. For, continues he, as to the " Oranges or Lemons, if we consider, that these Fruits " could never be transported half-Seas over to us without rotting or spoiling, if gather'd when wholly ripe, " we should have no great Opinion of their Juices. " Every *Spanish* or *Portugal* Merchant can inform us, " that they must be gather'd green, or at least a Month " before they are ripe, else they are not fit to be sent " beyond the Seas ; the Sea-Air, and their being shut " up close, gives them that golden yellow Colour, we " so much admire. And in the *West-Indies*, where from " the Necessity of drinking much, because of the Violence of the Heat, and from the Want of proper Liquors there, they are forced to drink much *Punch*, tho' " Lemons and Oranges be in their full Perfection, " they are universally afflicted with Nervous and Mortal " dry-Belly-aches, Palsies, Cramps and Convulsions, " which cut them off in a few Days ; intirely owing " to this poisonous Mixture.——It is like Opium both " in its Nature and in the Manner of its Operations, and " nearest Arsenick, in its deleterious and poisonous Qualities : And so, concludes he, I leave it to them

" *Who knowing this, will yet drink on, and die.*"

Thus much for this *Heathenish* Liquor, (as the same Author names it,) called *Punch*.

To address our selves to the *lower Class* of People generally, who have habituated themselves to the Love of distilled spirituous Liquors, we are afraid, will not have the desired Effect. These read but little, and if they read more, and we could write with the Pen of an Angel, we doubt what we could urge, would be but of small Avail, towards the subduing of a Vice that seems to have taken too strong a Possession of them, for all the Arts of Persuasion or Expostulation.

In the Behalf of *these Persons*, therefore, and of their unhappy *Offspring*, we presume to address our selves to the LEGISLATURE, and to implore the powerful Assistance of THAT, against the spreading Infection. We shall not repeat what we have already said upon this Head. The Cause is now before that *August Body*, and we pray God to inspire them with proper Means for redressing this crying Evil.

But one thing more we cannot help observing; and that is, The Mischiefs that flow to the Children of many sober Families, who are put out to Nurse, for Considerations as well of *Health* as Convenience, and who often suffer in the former to the last Degree, by their Nurses addicting themselves to the drinking of these poisonous Liquors. This is an Evil that frustrates the best Intentions of indulgent Parents, strikes deep at the Health of their Offspring, and is capable of communicating its Infection to late Posterity; and therefore requires the most serious Attention. The News-Papers of the Week have given us lately several flagrant Instances of this Mischief; and those who have the Direction of some of our Hospitals can inform us, That more Children from among the lower Sort are sent in there, maim'd by the wretched Neglect of these besotted Creatures, than used to be formerly: And the Evil is daily increasing.

To all Ranks and Orders of Persons infatuated with this pernicious Habit, who shall object, that it is dangerous to leave off of a sudden, I answer; that it must be done all at once, or it is likely it will never be done. The Authority of a good Physician in this Case, is the best that can be followed, and one of the most eminent of the Faculty tells us, that nothing can be more ridiculous than such a Plea. "The sooner *says he*, a Stop is put, the better. No Man is afraid to forbear them
" in

“ in an acute Distemper, what Quantity soever he might
 “ have drank in his Health : And yet any sudden Change
 “ of the Humours would not only be more dangerous
 “ *then*, but also would more readily happen in such cri-
 “ tical Cases. For the whole System of the Fluids be-
 “ ing in a Fermentation, small Changes would then be
 “ more fatal. But, continues he, the Matter of Fact is
 “ false and groundless : For I have known and observed
 “ constant good Effects from leaving off suddenly. Those
 “ whose Constitutions have been quite broken and run-
 “ ning into Dissolution, have lived longer, and been less
 “ pained in Sicknes by so doing, and those who have
 “ had a Fund in Nature to last longer, have grown bet-
 “ ter, and attained their Intention by it.”

I have run this preliminary Discourse into a greater
 Length than I at first intended : for, alas ! the Field is by
 much too ample !—And so shall detain the Reader no
 longer from the Perusal of the ensuing Pages.



SOME



S O M E
CONSIDERATIONS

Humbly offer'd to the
Hon. the *House of Commons*.



THE Ingenious Author of an *Essay upon Ways and Means*, &c. * wrote near forty Years ago, has these remarkable Paragraphs ; Edit. 2. p. 137, 138.

“ Where the Use of any Commodity is pernicious to the *Interest* of the Nation, or prejudicial to the *Health* of the People, such an Excise may there be laid, as may amount to a *Prohibition* of the Commodity.

“ And here it may not be amiss to take Notice, that if the Duty upon *Brandy* and *Spirits* was so high as to amount to a *Prohibition* of them, their want in the King's REVENUE would be recompensed to him in his Customs upon *Wine*, and *Excise* upon other Liquors, which they undoubtedly hinder.

* Dr. Davenant.

B

“ How

“ How BRANDY obtains among the *common*
 “ *People*, may be collected from hence, That
 “ for a long time the Importation of it has eve-
 “ ry Year increased considerably, so that *A. D.*
 “ 1689. there was as much imported as the
 “ Excise of it at 1 s. 4 d. a Gallon amounted to
 “ about 140,000 l. besides the *Strong Waters*
 “ made at home.

“ And if, as *Physicians* say, it extinguishes
 “ *natural Heat and APPETITE*, it will conse-
 “ quently hinder the *Consumption of Flesh and*
 “ *Corn* in a degree.

“ 'Tis a *growing Vice* among the *common Peo-*
 “ *ple*, and may in time prevail as much as *Opi-*
 “ *um* with the *Turks*, to which many attribute
 “ the *Scarcity of People* in the *East*.

“ There is no way to suppress the use of it so
 “ certain, as to lay such a *high Duty* as it may
 “ be worth no Man's while to meddle with it,
 “ but for *Medicine*.

“ *Excises* may be made the *Engine* to pull
 “ down or repress several *LUXURIES*, of which
 “ our Laws could never yet get the better.

“ And suppose these Duties should make ma-
 “ ny Commodities so much the dearer, as to less-
 “ sen their Consumption; if thereby *Luxury* in
 “ general was repressed, and the Nation was dri-
 “ ven more to *Thrift*, it would perhaps tend
 “ greatly to our publick *Wealth*; and that *No-*
 “ *tion*, if truly examined, will probably be found
 “ false; *That Riot and Expence in private Per-*
 “ *sons is advantageous to the Publick*.

So well did this Gentleman foresee many
 Years ago the fatal Consequences of this *growing*
 Evil, which has since spread its baneful Influence
 through the most distant Parts of the Kingdom.

If the wise Remedies, hinted at by him, had
 been

been sooner attended to, the Nation would have been *healthier* and *richer* than it is at present.

The Argument both as to the *Increase* of the King's *Revenue*, and the Benefit to the *Trade* of the Nation in general, stands in a much stronger Light now, than at the Time when this Essay was wrote.

The *Excise* upon *Beer*, *Ale*, and *Hops*, must certainly in Time be lessened, by the vast Increase of distilled Spirituous Liquors made at home, as well as vast Quantities run into the Kingdom paying no Duty at all, and consequently the Revenue must suffer in these Articles.

Our present Trade with *Portugal* is highly advantageous, and ought to be preferred and encouraged, as it takes off large Quantities of our Manufactures; whilst we send little else to another neighbouring Kingdom, but *ready Money* in exchange for *Superfluities* and *Luxuries*.

If the drinking of *Spirits*, either *simply* or more *artfully*, (tho' not less perniciously disguised) goes on, as it has done of late Years, the REVENUE will certainly suffer in the Article of *Wines*, especially since *Punch* is growing the favourite Liquor. The *Merchant*, and consequently the *Country* in general, will be Losers in this most beneficial Branch of their Trade. But if this was not so, His MAJESTY, the *tender Father* of his People, prefers the *Peace*, *Happiness*, *Morality*, and *Welfare* of his Subjects, to *all* and *every other* Advantage. When *these* are in danger of being lost, we may rest assured of His MAJESTY's hearty Concurrence in every Method than can be proposed for putting a Stop to so monstrous an Evil.

The Parliament held in the second Year of his Majesty's Reign, were deeply sensible of the ill Effects of these Distilled Liquors.

The *Preamble* to the Bill then past sets forth

in such strong Terms, the mischievous Consequences of these *poisonous* Liquors, that I cannot forbear inserting it at full Length.

*Preamble to a Bill for laying a Duty upon Compound Waters, or Spirits commonly called Gin, &c. and for Licensing the Retailers of it **

“ **W**HEREAS the drinking of *Spirits* and
 “ *strong Waters*, is become very common
 “ amongst the People of inferior Rank, and the
 “ constant and excessive Use thereof tends greatly
 “ to the Destruction of their *Healths*, and *enervating* them, and rendering them unfit for
 “ useful *Labour* and *Service*, *intoxicating* them,
 “ and *debauching their Morals*, and driving them
 “ into all manner of *Vices* and *Wickedness*, the
 “ Prevention whereof would be of the greatest
 “ Publick Good and Benefit; and whereas it is
 “ found by Experience, that the Temptation to
 “ such a licentious use of these pernicious Liquors, is from the *Cheapness* thereof, occasioned by new Inventions for mixing and compounding of *Brandy*, *low Wines*, and *Spirits* of the first Extraction, on which Duties have been heretofore granted, with other *Spirits* or Materials which pay little or no Duty, and by an unlimited Liberty for all sorts of Persons, to retail, sell and dispose of such mixed Compound *Spirits* at their Will and Pleasure. For Remedy therefore of Customs and Practices so dangerous and mischievous to the *Health, Manners* and *Peace* of all your Majesty's Subjects, may it please your Most Excellent Majesty, &c.”

By this ACT a Duty of 5 s. per Gallon was laid on *strong Waters*, and every Retailer thereof was requir'd to take a Licence from the Ex-

* Geo. 2. fol. 335.

cise Office for selling the same, for which he was to pay 20 *l.* Yearly.——Numbers upon this took up Licences, intending to risque the Penalties for not paying the Duties; and during this Time *strong Waters* were publickly sold at 2 *s.* per Gallon in many hundred Shops in and about London, some of which had taken out Licences, besides what was sold more privately, which if they had paid the Duty only for, must have cost them 7 *s.* per Gallon, besides the 20 *l.* per *Annum* for the Licence; and it is very evident, that the Persons who took out Licences, paid very little for the Duty; for that by the Accounts from the *Excise Office* it appears, that 429 Licences only were taken out in the said three Years, amounting together to 8580 *l.* and that the Duty receiv'd during that Time for *strong Waters*, was no more than 4991 *l.* which supposes that on an Average, no Person taking such Licence sold more than 47 Gallons, including what he sold by Wholesale.—This shews how ineffectual this *Act* was towards the restraining this monstrous Evil, and how necessary it is to make a Law, that shall amount to a PROHIBITION.

I shall not enter here into a Detail of the many other impudent *Evasions* of this *Act*; it certainly did not answer the Design of that great and wise Assembly, tho' this was not the Reason given for the Repeal of it. *The Cheapness of Corn* was the only Reason then given, when it is notorious, that all kind of Grain was never cheaper, than the very next Year after the Repeal of that *Act*, and would have continued so, if the extraordinary Call from abroad had not increased the Demand. In the beginning of the Year 1733, Wheat was about 2 *s.* 3 *d.* a Bushel, and Barley 1 *s.* 3 *d.* The latter end of that, and the beginning

beginning of the Year 1734, there was exported of the former near a million of Quarters; which took off great part of the *old Stock*, and some of the *new*, and raised the Price at a Medium to 4 s. a Bushel, which, by the Smallness of the last Years Crop, keeps up tolerably well, and Barley for the same Reason is come to about 2 s. a Bushel, (tho' it is now falling) — So that the *Rise* can in no Sense be attributed to the Consumption in the Distillery; nor could Rents have been paid, without such an *unforeseen* Demand from abroad; nor can the Farmer pay his Rent now, unless *Wheat* be 4 s. and *Barley* 2 s. a Bushel, and *Butchers-meat* at 1 s. 2 d. a Stone, and *Butter* and *Cheese* in proportion.

I would ask the Country Gentlemen, Whether their Rents are better paid now, than they were before their Corn was used in the Distillery? Or, Whether they find any remarkable Change for the better since the *Repeal* of the *Gin Act*, and an almost unlimited Licence of distilling and retaling what Quantity they please? Sure, if the *British Distillery* was so valuable a Manufacture, we should have seen some remarkable Effects of the Benefit of it to the *Landed Interest*, for these three Years past. —

I would also observe, that the *Dearness* is not owing to the Distillers Consumption of that Commodity, but the *bad Harvests* we formerly had for some Years together, particularly in the Reign of King *William*, Corn was dearer than ever it has been since, and then there was not *one Distiller*, where there are now *twenty*. We must look out for other Reasons, and I believe we shall find it prov'd beyond all doubt, that the *Landed Interest* suffers greatly by the Distillery; and if so, the warmest Advocates for it must be silent.

And

And here I shall not think myself at all oblig'd to take notice of the *Gains* or *Loss* of any *Number of particular Persons*, but only the *Good* or *Ill* that accrues to the *whole Community*.

Other Reasons may be given, and those directly drawn from the *Evil* complained of, why the Farmers are not able to pay their Rents so well now, as they did formerly.

In the first Place, Is it not notorious, that *Luxury* and *Extravagance* were never at a greater Height than at present, amongst the *laborious*, and even the *meanest* part of *Mankind*? Instead of being contented with *Beer* and *Ale* brewed at home of their own Malt, they must now have *Tea* and *Spirits* at six times the Expence, besides that these Liquors *dispirit* and *enervate* them, so that they are not able to go thro' the *Hardships*, that were, by their former wholesome Diet, easy to them.

Don't their *Servants* demand as great or greater Wages, and are they able to do half the Work? And if we will let our selves impartially consider the Loss that redounds to the Publick, from an *idle, vicious, weak, sickly, feeble*, Race, diminished in their *Size* and *Vigour*, we shall certainly find that it bears no Proportion to the Gain that is pretended from the Distillery's taking off Quantities of *bad Barley, Malt* or *Wheat*.

'Tis a certain and known Maxim, that the *Strength* and *Riches* of any Nation arise principally from the *Number, bodily Strength, and Labour* of its Inhabitants; and consequently, in proportion as *these* are diminished, so must the *Riches* and *Power* of a Nation decrease.

That this is the Effect of the excessive drinking *Spirituous Liquors*, will appear evidently, when we come to treat of it in a *Physical Way*: That

it is so in fact, we may appeal to all those Persons in and about Town, who employ Numbers of Hands; *House and Ship-Builders, Coal Merchants, &c.* will tell you, that they are obliged to have many more Hands to do their Work, besides the hourly Fear they are under of some Mischief, from a *drunken ungovernable Set of People*. — That many are murder'd and murder one another; that Thousands bring upon themselves, by this cursed Practice, various Diseases that carry them off, if not suddenly, yet in the End as certainly, as if they had been stabb'd thro' the Heart, will be *demonstrated* in the **PHYSICAL PART** of this Book. And how this must in Time affect the KING in his REVENUE, is proper to be consider'd in this Place. — The PRINCE, for the Publick Good, has a Sovereign Property in every Private Man's Estate; and consequently his *Riches* must increase and decrease in Proportion to the *Number, Riches, and Bodily Strength* of his Subjects: *E. g.*

If *Sword or Pestilence* should destroy all the People of this *Metropolis*, (God forbid that there should be any Room for such a Supposition! but if this should be the Case) the *King* must needs lose a great Part of his *Revenue*, or, at least, what is charg'd upon the City, must increase the Burthen upon the rest of his Subjects. — Perhaps the Inhabitants here are not above a tenth part of the Whole; yet as they are better fed, and cloath'd, and lodg'd, than his other Subjects, — the *Customs and Excises* upon their Consumption, — the *Imposts* upon their Houses, and other Taxes, do very probably make a *Fifth* Part of the whole Revenue of the Crown. — But this is not all. — The Consumption of the City takes off a Great Part of the *Fruits* of the Whole

Whole Island ; and as it pays such a Proportion of the Rent or Yearly Value of the Lands in the Country, so it is the Cause of paying such a Proportion of *Taxes* upon those Lands.—The Loss then of such a People, must needs be sensible to the *Prince*, and visible to the Whole Kingdom.——

Whatsoever is assess'd upon the *General*, is levied upon the *Individuals*.——It were worth the while then, to consider what is paid by, or by Means of the meanest Subjects, in order to compute the Value of ev'ry Subject to the Prince.—I believe it will be allow'd, that near seven-eighths of the People are without Property in themselves or the Heads of their Families, and forc'd to work for their daily Bread ; and that of this Sort there are 7,000,000 in *Great Britain* : —And yet one would imagine, that seven-eighths of the Whole People should consume at least three-fourths of the Whole Fruits of the Country.—If this is the Case, the Subjects without Property, pay three-fourths of the Rents, and consequently enable the Landlord to pay three-fourths of their Taxes.—Now if so great a Part of the Land Tax were to be divided by 7,000,000, it would amount to above Two Shillings to every Head.—And Thus as the *Poor* are the Cause, without which the *Rich* could not pay this Tax, even the *Poorest* Subject is upon this Account worth Two Shillings Yearly to the *Prince*. Again :—One would imagine the Consumption of seven-eighths of the Whole People should pay Two Thirds of the Custom and Excises. And if this Sum too should be divided by 7,000,000, viz. the Number of Poor People, it would amount to near 7 s. per Head :—And therefore with this and the former Sum

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every

every poor Subject, without Property, except of his Limbs and Labour, is worth near Ten Shillings Yearly to the Sovereign.—

If the People therefore only make the Riches, the Father of *Ten* Children is a greater Benefactor to his Country, then he who has added to it 10,000 Acres of Land and no People.—And this might, if it was necessary, be demonstrated.—

Complain we may of imaginary *Difficulties* and *Distresses*, the *Badness of Trade*, the *Decay of our Manufactures*, and the *Cheapness of Corn*, &c. while so many 1000 Persons are not at all, or ill employed: We ought to lay the Blame where it should be, upon the Want of *Industry*, *Sobriety*, *Frugality* and good *Husbandry*. And here it is not below our Notice, to consider how much our *Woollen Manufacturies* suffer by the drinking of these *Distilled Liquors*: It is too well known to be denied. These miserable Creatures are so infatuated, that they will sell their own and their Childrens Cloaths, and even the Beds from under them, rather than want this bewitching Poison. A dreadful instance of this kind, is fresh in every body's Memory, of a *Woman* who murdered her own Child, threw it into a Ditch, and stripp'd it of the Cloaths given it that Day by a Charitable Person, to pawn for *nine Pennyworth of Gin*.

These are some of the sad Effects of the *Distillers Poison*, which hath spread from this *great City* to the neighbouring *Counties*, and even to Places very distant; and all this under the subtle Pretence of promoting the *Trade* and *Consumption* of our home Product, whilst in reality it is destructive of *that* and every thing that is Good.

Surely

Surely the saving the *Lives* and *increasing* and *mending* the *Breed* of the Nation, would in Process of Time, abundantly compensate for such pretended Disadvantages, when the *Consumption* of all kinds would be much greater from a numerous healthy Race, than from a ragged Company of walking Ghosts, a *Scandal* and *Burden* to their Country.

Don't we often hear great Complaints from the Country of want of Hands to cultivate, but much more to bring in the Product of their Grounds.

This must proceed either from the *Idleness*, *Inability*, or *Decrease* in the Bulk of the common People, and all these *Evils* can be very naturally accounted for, from the *Vile Practice* of the habitual drinking these *Spirituous Liquors*.

The *Decrease* in the Numbers of People, will be felt last of all in this great City, or the *want of Labouring Hands*, to bring in the Harvest in the Neighbourhood of it; as well as the large Wages given at that time.

The Numbers of People that come from the most distant Parts of the Nation and *Ireland*, in hopes of getting Money at an easy rate, and which fill our Streets in the Day-time with *Lazy Sturdy Beggars*, and in the Night with *Street-Robbers*, and *House-breakers*:

This continual *Flux* of People of all Sorts, may, for a time, keep up the *Bulk* of the People in *London* (such miserable Wretches as they are) but must and do draw out the Labouring Hands from the Country, and those that are left, are *deprav'd*, *weakned*, *debauched*, and many of them *killed* by this destructive *Poison*, dispersed far and near from this great City. So that instead of the *Head's* consulting the Good of the

Whole Body, it destroys, and, in time, if not prevented by the Wisdom of the Legislature, will ruin it.

Then, and not till then, will the Labourer perform an honest Day's Work for his Wages, and his *Wife* and *Children* be fed at home with wholesome Meat and Drink; His Family decently cloathed, his Landlord have his Rent duly paid; The Man enjoy his *Health* and his *Senses*; His *Wife* a good *Husband*, Himself a *plentiful Issue*; with strong and healthful Children, to assist their aged Parents when they are past their Labour; and his Prince reap the Fruits of their Labours, in the *Increase* of strong and laborious Subjects, as well as the *Riches* of a happy and flourishing People.

If the Particulars above-mentioned were carefully weighed and attended to by every *Farmer* or *Country Gentleman*, we should have them all come in and heartily vote for the *entire Prohibition* of *all Distilled Spirituous Liquors*.

But lest the Consequences from so many *To-picks* may lye too much scattered, and not be so easily recollected, or so clearly apprehended or understood;

I shall come now to what I think a *Demonstration* of the manifest and apparent Loss of the *Landed Interest*, by the *Distilling and Vending* such *prodigious Quantities of Spirituous Liquors*, and these not so much extracted from *Malt*, as *rotten Fruit*, and, if we may believe *Common Fame*, *Urine*, *Lime*, *human Ordure*, and any other Filthiness, from whence a Fermentation may be rais'd; and by throwing in *Cochylus Indica*, and other *Hot Poisonous Drugs*, that intoxicate and often make these unhappy Creatures mad.—

How

How many Millions of Gallons of these pernicious Compositions are made and utter'd in and about this Great City, can no Way be guess'd at, but by the Multitudes that crowd these Infamous Shops, and with an unaccountable Greediness, are continually swallowing down their own certain Destruction. —

I owe the Hint of what follows to a Paragraph from the Ingenious Writer mention'd in the Beginning of this little *Traët*, viz. *And if, as Physicians say, it (i. e. Brandy and all other Spirituous Liquors) extinguishes natural Heat and Appetite, it will consequently hinder the Consumption of Flesh and Corn in a Degree.*

That this would be one of the fatal Consequences of the habitual drinking of *spirituous Liquors*, was the constant Opinion of the wisest *Physicians* from the beginning of this vile Practice: And that it is so, I think is denied by none, and will be acknowledged by those who will be at the Pains of considering what I have collected from Gentlemen who have thoroughly considered this *Subject* in the *Physical Way*.

In the mean time we may appeal to the great *Dealers* in *Flesh-Meat* in *Southwark* and *White-Chapel*, who assure us, That of late Years they have not Purchasers for the coarser Parts of their Beasts, which used formerly to be bought by the Poor at a low Price, and are forced to bury them, or throw them upon a Dunghill; and this can be attributed to nothing else but the *Decrease* in the Bulk of the People, or *Want of Appetite*, or both.

Those that keep large Numbers of *Cows* near the Town, will tell you, that they have not had near the Demand for their *Milk*, and have been
forced

forced to sell off some Part of their Stock ; which they attribute to Mothers and Nurses giving their Children *Gin*, &c.

The low Price of *Cheese* and *Butter* will now be, in a great measure, accounted for, and the *Decrease of the Brewery* wholly so.

The City of *London* is the GREAT STOMACH of the Nation, if that be *vitiated* and *lost* ; all, even the most distant Members, will find a sensible Decay : When the *London* Butchers cannot sell their Meat, they cannot afford to give so great a Price for their Beasts in *Smithfield* ; which nearly affects the *Tenant*, and consequently the *Landlord*, and so in *Bread*, *Beer*, *Butter*, and *Cheese*.

And, to come to some tolerable Calculation, we must first see, what a *strong, healthy, laborious Man* or *Woman* commonly eats and drinks of wholesome Victuals in a Day.

Dr. *Cheyne*, in his Treatise upon the *Gout*, allows to a Person past the Meridian of his Life, and of little or no Exercise, to eat half a Pound of solid (or Butcher's Meat) a Day, with twelve Ounces of *Bread* and other Vegetables, and to drink a Pint of Wine, with other Slip-slops (as he expresses it) into the Bargain. By the same Rule it may reasonably be supposed, that a *healthy, laborious Person* may eat twice as much, besides *small Beer*, and a little *Ale* ; all which is the natural Food and Product of the Kingdom, and cannot amount to less than 6 *d.* a Day.

If the Number of Drinkers of Distilled Spirituous Liquors could be known, the Loss to the Landed Interest could be more easily shewn. But, for Calculation's sake, we will suppose the Number of *Gin-Shops* within the Bills of Mortality, and twenty Miles round, to be 10,000, (when, if you

you take in *Chandlers-Shops, Cellars, and other unlicensed Houses*, and by *four-score other inferior Trades* that retail *Spirits*, there would be twice the Number), and that there are, to one Shop with another, *forty Customers*; that would make, in the Whole, *400,000 Gin-Drinkers*! And allowing These to eat *half a Pound* of Butchers Meat a Day *less* than they would have done, had they drank no Drams at all, (the depraving the Appetite being the certain and known Consequence of an habitual drinking of *Geneva, &c.*) the Difference, in that Article alone, amounts to *25,000 Stone* a Day; which, at *Five-farthings* a Pound, comes to *380,208 l. per Annum*; besides *Bread, Beer, Butter, and Cheese*, which may fairly be reckoned as much more.

A Working Man can very well eat a Pound of Bread *per Day*; therefore *400,000 Working Men* can eat *400,000 Pound* of Bread *per Day*, which is equal to $8333\frac{1}{3}$ Bushels, at *48 Pound per Bushel*. Cast away the Fraction, as too small to be regarded, and the *8333 Bushels*, at *3 s. 6 d. per Bushel*, is equal to *1458 l. per Day*, or *532,170 l. per Ann.* — But as the *Gin-Drinkers* eat only half of the Bread, which, as *Non-Gin-Drinkers*, they would eat, and what, as *Gin-Drinkers*, they do not eat, is just so much a Loss to the Consumption of Wheat; therefore the Loss to the *Landed Interest*, from the *London Gin-Drinkers* only, upon the Article of *Wheat*, is full *266,085 l.* So that the total Loss to the *Farmer*, by *Bread and Meat* only, is *646,293 l.*

The Loss by *Gin-Drinking*, of the Labour of the People, is *3 d. per Day*. — Suppose there are, according to *Sir William Petty*, *300 Working Days* in a Protestant Kingdom; and suppose there are in *London*, and ten Miles round,
only

only 100,000 Men, half of whose Labour is lost, by being besotted with *Gin*, and weaken'd by a constant Debauch ; and allowing the Labour of the Women to be two Thirds of the Mens ; the whole Loss to the Publick, upon this Article only, will be 514,800 *l. per Annum*.

As the Demand for, and Consumption of Spirits, increases, the Stomachs of more People will be lost.

From the lowest Calculation that can be made, though, I think, the former is not too high, every 20 *s.* laid out by the Distiller in *Barley, Malt, Wheat, &c.* and made into Spirits, will take off from the Demand of all Sorts of Eatables, as much as the Farmer ought to sell for 3 *l.* And this is as certain, as that a Person, who is addicted to the drinking of Spirits, cannot eat above one Third so much as the *healthy, strong, sober, laborious* Man or Woman, who drink none. For these unhappy Wretches, finding themselves faint and languid, begin, the first thing they do, with a Dram of *Gin*, which, with the Addition of two or three more, takes away their Stomach both for Eating and Business that Day : — whilst other of the laborious Poor, who are not addicted to this fatal Delusion, do their Work first, and then sit down comfortably with their Families, and drink a Pot or two of good Beer of a Night, which refreshes and keeps up their Spirits, without doing them any Harm.

It should be observed, That most Counties in *England* have some *Produce* or other peculiar to itself, and from whence the Rents are generally paid : *Kent*, Hops and Fruit ; *Gloucestershire*, Cheese, Cyder, and Butter ; *Worcestershire* and *Herefordshire*, Hops, Perry, Cyder, and Wool ; *Shropshire*, and *Hampshire*, Hogs ; *Cheshire* and *Lancashire*,
Cheese

Cheese and Butter ; *Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Butter and Mutton ; Essex, Calves ; Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire, Beeves and Mutton ;* and so for the rest. If the *Produce* of the Kingdom be divided into *Three* Parts, *Corn* is not above *one Third* ; in the Consumption of which the Distillers pretend that they are of so great Advantage to the *Landed Interest* : The Fallacy of which I hope I have, in some measure, demonstrated ; and that there would be a much greater Consumption of every other Produce in the Kingdom, were there not *One Distiller* in it.

It is certain, that whenever the *Demand* for any Commodity is lessened, not only the *Value* of that Commodity is lessened, but the *Value* of every Thing else that contributes to the Produce of it is lessened at the same time.

And as the Demand for *Butchers Meat, Bread, Butter, Cheese, Beer, &c.* have actually fallen to a great Degree ; which, in the latter Article, will not appear so soon, the *Brewers* having, as I have been informed, vast Quantities of Beer in their Cellars.

As the former of these have decreased in Price for several Years past, so, consequently, has the *'Live Stock* upon a Farm, which generally consists in *Horses, Cows, fat and young Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs* ; and which, seven or eight Years ago, would have sold for 500 *l.* is now lessened in Value to 350, or 400 *l.* which is a Loss of near 20 *per Cent.* and this I insist upon as a Matter of *Fact*.

A Farmer that rents 100 *l. per Ann.* eight or ten Years ago used to have six or eight fat *Hogs*, twenty or thirty *Sheep*, a couple of *Bullocks*, and a barren *Cow* or two, the Surplus of his breeding Stock, to make half a Years Rent for his

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Landlord : The Case is not so now ; what they part with of that Kind, may rather be said to be *given* than *sold* : Their present great Dependance is from *Wheat* ; and should a *foreign Market* fail for two or three Years, the Farmers will not, as the Case stands at present, be able to pay their Rents.

For the Truth of these Observations, I appeal to all Gentlemen's *Stewards*, or those who are at all employed in Concerns of this nature.

As the *Produce* of a Farm lessens, so must in time the *Farm* itself lessen in its *Value* as well as *Rent*.

From which it must be concluded, that it is to all Intents and Purposes equally prejudicial to the *Landed Interest*, whether 200,000 Persons are destroyed by a *Plague*, or 400,000 lose their Appetites by *drinkig of Spirits* ; because the *Demand* for *Provisions* that such a Number of People would expend daily for their Subsistence, would *cease*.

'Tis generally thought that there is brewed in *London communibus Annis*, about 1,312,500 Barrels of Strong Beer and Ale, and 927,500 Barrels of Small Beer, of both near 2,250,000 Barrels : To the Strong Beer and Ale, there is allowed three Bushels to the Barrel, and to the Small, one Bushel : But much Small Beer being brewed after the Strong, it may be a reasonable Medium to allow to both Drinks, one with another, Two Bushels to the Barrel ; at which Rate there is used in *London* 4,480,288 Bushels a Year : But suppose only 4,200,000, which is a very low Calculation, at 20 s. a Quarter at a Medium, and the Sum paid to the *Farmer* by the *London Brewers*, will be 525,000 l. *per Annum*,

There is distilled in *London*, from all Grain, Fruit, &c. as it has been lately computed, Twelve
Millions

Millions of Gall^s of all sorts of Spirits drawn from Grain, &c. besides many Tuns of Spirits which pay no Duty, are made without any Grain at all. A Quarter of Malted Corn, *Big*, or *Barley*, will produce about twenty Gallons of *Proof Spirits*, which makes double that Quantity of *Geneva* or other Compound Liquors. *Wheat* makes about four and twenty Gallons of Proof, or forty eight of *Geneva*, &c. * The Malted Corn or *Barley*, at 9 s. a Quarter, used in the distilling of Twelve Millions of Gallons, comes to - - -

But allowing them to use a great Quantity of *Wheat*, we will suppose that they pay 15 s. a Quarter for all the Grain they use.—If it was all *Barley* that they used, it would amount to 22,5000 l. But if all *Wheat*, it will amount to 187000 l. Take the Medium of these Sums, and then the Sum they pay to the Farmer, is 206250 l. *per Ann.* This is, upon Supposition (not allowing it) that they consume vast Quantities of bad Corn, that the Farmers cannot otherwise find a Use for. But if it shall be found that they buy the best Corn—Then the Argument will appear in another Light; and the Loss that does, and will more in Time appear to accrue to the *Revenue*, will be particularly ascertained, when we compare the *Brewers* and *Distillers* Gains and Loss together.

It ought to be observed, that the common Method now in use, is *one Sixth* of Malted Corn; but it is to be done with a *fifteenth* Part. In this Article the *REVENUE* is a considerable Loser; how much, cannot be certainly computed.

* If the late Author of a Pamphlet upon the *British* Distillery had not overlook'd this Paragraph, he might have spared himself great Part of his Trouble.

From a former Method of calculating, we reckon'd 400,000 Dram Drinkers, Men, Women, and Children, in *London* and ten Miles round, allowing Forty Customers to a Shop. We will suppose that a Labouring Man or Woman will drink of Strong Beer, Ale and Small together, a Quart a Day, which is 1,013886 Barrels *per Ann.* which at a Medium of 18 s. a Barrel comes to 9,12,497 l. Suppose that an habitual Drinker of Drams drinks but half the Quantity of Malt Liquor he otherwise would do, and there remains a Loss to the Brewers of 4,56,248 l. Deduct One Fourth for Children, and there would remain (supposing spirituous Liquors were prohibited) a neat Loss to the Brewer of above 300,000 l. *per Ann.*

I shall here insert the *Malt-Distillers* Account and Expence, ballanc'd with the *Common Brewers*, and draw some Observations upon it, which may give some further and clearer Light into this Affair. But we shall first premise the following Fact, *viz.*

The Distillers say in their late Pamphlet, that they use 400,000 Quarters of Corn *per Annum*, of which not above ONE SIXTH PART pays Duty; which amounts to 13333 l. 4 s. If it were all Malted, it would amount to 80,000 l. *per An.* So that here the Government loses every Year 66,666 l. 16 s.

But if the Distiller draws a Quantity of Spirit proportionable to the *Weight* of his Corn, which may very reasonably be supposed, then the Consumption is lessened *One Fourth Part* to the *Farmer*; for *Two Bushels of Wheat*, and *Four Bushels of Barley*, such as they generally use, will weigh as much as *eight Bushels* of the Best Malt.

An ESTIMATE of the Malt Distiller's Account, and Expence; ballanced with the Common Brewer's.

To One Hundred Quarters of the best Pale Malts, exclusive of unmalted Corn, or of Wheat, Bean, Pease, and Barley-Meals; at a Medium of 1 l. 1 s. per Quarter: The intrinsic Value is		l. s. d. 105 00 00
And according to their own Confession, they draw from thence 23 Gallons per Quarter, Proof Spi- rits: This, by the Evo- lution of Three fifths, and One fourth (as by Law establish'd) will produce 15,333 $\frac{1}{3}$ Gallons of Wash. One fourth of which is charged (by the Officer) Low-Wines, and will amount to 3,833 $\frac{1}{3}$ Gall. at a Penny per Gall. the Duty of Low-Wines is		15 19 05 $\frac{1}{4}$
To 3,833 $\frac{1}{3}$ Gall. of Low- Wines, Three fifths thereof are charged Spi- rits; which amount to 2,299 $\frac{1}{3}$ Gallons. The Duty thereof, at 3 d. per Gallon, being		28 15 01 $\frac{1}{2}$
Whole Duty		44 14 06 $\frac{1}{4}$
To Servants Wages, Horses, and Casks, cannot stand him in, at the utmost Estimation, above 15 per Cent.		15 15 00
To weekly Interest of 5000 l. Stock in Trade, allowing 5 per Cent.		5 00 00
To allowed for Yeast, in proportion to 100 Quar- ters		4 00 00
Total		174 09 06 $\frac{1}{4}$
To 2299 Gallons of Spirits, making nine Tuns and One tenth Part; and sup- posing them sold at so moderate a Price as 21 l. per Tun; the Intrinsic Value is		191 02 00
Profits remaining		16 12 05 $\frac{1}{4}$
To Common Brewers, per Contra.		
To One Hundred Quarters of Brown Malts, at a Medium, of 19 Shillings and Six-pence per Quar- ter		l. s. d. 97 10 00
To 700 Weight of Hops, computed at a Medium of five Pounds per Hundred, amounts to		35 00 00
Intrinsic Value		132 10 00
And supposing he draws from thence 250 Barrels, or Two Barrels and a half per Quarter; the neat Duty thereof will amount to		54 06 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
To 3 d. per Pound to the Victualler, and 3 d. to the Clerk, or some other Equivalent		6 05 00
To Servants Wages, which are (at the least) double the Number: To Horses, which is four times the Number: To Casks, which is above thirty times the Number, can- not be estimated at less than 35 per Cent.		33 19 00
To weekly Interest of 20,000 l. Stock in Trade, allowing 5 per Cent.		20 00 00
Total		247 00 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
To 250 Barrels of Beer, at 20 s. per Barrel: The Intrinsic Value is		250 00 00
Profits remaining		2 19 00 $\frac{1}{2}$

From

From the above Ballance of Accounts, it may be observ'd, that the *Brewer* labours under the Disadvantage of 7 per Cent. Intrinsic Value, for his Commodities, more than the *Distiller*; and that he pays 10 per Cent. over and above in his Duty to the Crown; besides 20 per Cent. plus Monies on account of *Wages, Horses, and Casks*; being in the whole 37 per Cent. exclusive of the Duty on Hops.

The *Distiller* can carry on his Trade with six or seven Servants, when the *Brewer* will require twelve or fourteen. The *Distiller* can manage his Business with five Horses, but the *Brewer* cannot compleat his, under twenty, or upwards. The Distillers Business may not require above an hundred or hundred and fifty Pipes; but the *Brewers* Commodities cannot be contained under less than four or five thousand Butts, besides a large Number of smaller Casks. It is likewise presumed the Legislature in his late Majesty King *William's* Reign, encouraged Distillation chiefly on account of their consuming *smutted, sprouted, musty, and wevel'd* Grain, as unfit for other Uses; and this, on all Occasions, has been made a Pretence for continuing their Trade. However, if the Honourable *House of Commons* will be pleased to satisfy themselves in this Particular, by an Enquiry at *Queenbith, Bear-Key, &c.* it will in all Probability appear the best Malts are usually purchased for that purpose.

But this is not all; the large Quantities of all sorts of *Meal* and *unmalted* Corn, it is to be feared will amount to Three fifths of the whole; to the great Disadvantage of the Revenue upon *Malt*, the Imposition on the Legislature, and consequently on the whole Body of the People.

For

For *Malted Corn*, after it hath imbibed the Water in steeping, and laid in the Couch to heat, as well as on the Kiln to dry; I say, by these Heats the Salts will exhale (especially the volatile) and consequently Part of the Spirits; therefore crude or unmalted Corn and Meal will produce more Spirits, than malted.

The Law likewise directs, that all *Low-Wines* shall be rectified, which in fact are so; but not according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Acts, because they are properly rectified by the Compound Distiller only: Neither can it be supposed that a Body of Wash, from One to Three thousand Gallons, should at the first coming down of the Still, produce *Low-Wines* only, which requires Rectification, because they are not Proof.

On the contrary, the first coming down of the Still produces Proof Spirits, in proportion to the Quality and Quantity of Liquor from whence they are extracted; these they store immediately as such; and is a principal Reason the Officer seldom or never can make a Charge from his Gage of *Low-Wines*, but more frequently on the Presumption of one fourth Part of the Wash, as the Law provides in such Cases.

This leads me to another doubtful Case, that is, Whether in their Brewing they cannot extract the Salts and Spirits from any Grain, with Three fourths of the Wash, as before is estimated; being in proportion to four Barrels and a Firkin (Beer Measure) *per* Quarter; which, if so (as may be reasonably believed) the aforesaid estimated Quantity of Malt would by Calculation only pay 33 *l.* 10 *s.* 9 *d.* Duty to the Crown, instead of 44 *l.* 14 *s.* 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* However, in this Case I appeal to
some

some more able and competent Judge; tho' my Reason leads me firmly to believe it.

To these Practices, they give the specious Title of Improvements in Trade; which are indeed very advantageous to them, but no less disadvantageous to the Publick, and their Fellow Subjects the Brewers, on whose Welfare the Inland Trade, Revenues, and Landed Interest of the united Kingdom is more nearly and immediately concerned in.

The *Compounder* likewise takes his Advantages, in being allowed to reduce his *Proof Spirits* by *Common Water*, which we suppose to be in the general One fifth: This impares the Revenue 20 *per Cent.* and many (if not all) have Digefted *Quick-lime*, or other *Alkalies*, which enflames the Spirits, in order to draw the longer Lengths: These likewise cause an Ebullition upon any violent Motion, and gives them a Grace like Proof Spirits. And though they linify them by Bran, &c. (which also forwards the Ferment, as Oil or Tallow in Soap) yet of consequence they must be very prejudicial to many thousands of His Majesty's Subjects.

And in order to explain his Profits more fully, let us suppose he purchases 1095 Gallons of Proof Spirits, after the Rate of 23 *l.* *per* Tun, or 22 *d.* *per* Gallon, equal to 100 *l.* intrinsic Value, and exclusive of One fifth by common Water: And with that Addition he sells Two thirds of them at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* *per* Gallon, Wholesale; the Difference is 8 *d.* *per* Gallon, or 29 *l.* 4 *s.* *per Cent.* and provided he sells the other One third Retale, at 4 *s.* *per* Gallon, or three Half-pence *per* Quartern, he will gain by that Quantity (being 438 Gallons)

47 *l.*

47 l. 9 s. and in the Whole, 96 and a half per Cent.

NB. *The Brewer is subjected to great Losses in Return'd Drink, to which the Distiller is not.*

As was observ'd above, the *Distiller*, to evade the *Malt Duty*, has found the Art to draw his Spirits from *Unmalted Wheat* and *Barley*.—Now, four Bushels of *Barley*, and two Bushels of *Wheat*, such as *they* use, will weigh more than eight Bushels of the best *Malt* that is made.—And supposing they can draw Spirits from each *in proportion* to their respective *Weights* (as it is found by Experience, that much more Spirit is drawn from a Quarter of *Wheat*, than from a Quarter of *Malt*) Then here is a Loss to the Farmer of a *fourth Part* of the Consumption of his Corn, besides the Loss to the Government on the *Unmalted Corn*; which Loss comes to - - -

And whereas the *Distillers* say they use *Barley*, which is so bad that the *Maltster* cannot make *Malt* of it—This, on further Inquiry, proves to be false, for this plain Reason, That it is found by Experience, that any *Barley*, tho' never so coarse, will grow, if sown in the Ground, except the *Mowburnt*, which is of little Value to the *Distillers* themselves; and any *Barley* that will grow when sown, will make *Malt*.

A further Injury done by the *Distillers* to the Farmer is, that they employing a few *Milners* to buy the greatest Part of their bad Corn, there are, by this means, but a few *Bidders* in the Market, and so they can set the Price upon the Farmers; whereas, were the *Distiller* to use all *Malted Corn*, the *Farmer* would thereby have a much greater Number of *Bidders* in the

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Markets,

Markets, and consequently get a better Price for his Grain.—Which, added to the Articles above-mentioned, the Decrease in the Demand of *Flesh-Meat* and *Bread*, besides *Butter* and *Cheese*, and the Loss of a Third at least of the Labour of the People, it may be justly and fairly reckoned a Loss of above 1,000,000 *l. per Annum* to the *Landed Interest*, and this by the *Distillery* in *London* only: And in this Calculation I have allowed the *Distiller* to buy of the *Farmer* as much bad Grain as amounts to 200,000 *l. per Annum*; which I believe will be granted by themselves to be high enough: But taking it for granted that they buy 400,000 *l.* of all kinds of Grain, and then the Loss to the *Landed Interest* will be at least 800,000 *l. per Annum*.

I shall mention another *Article*, by which the *Farmers* are great Sufferers; and that is by the prodigious Numbers of *Hogs* fed by the *Distillers Wash*. That single *Article* is 10 *l.* a Year Difference to a *Farmer* who rents 100 *l. per Ann.* in *Shropshire* and other Countries, where great Part of the Rent is made out of *Hogs*.

Instead of sending them *Fat*, as they used to do formerly, they are now sent as *Stores*; the *Distillers* feed them cheap, and can and do contract with the *Navy* at a lower Price than the *Farmer* can possibly do.

How wholesome such *Food* may be for his Majesty's *Sailors*, I will not take upon me to say; but sure this can never be called *Promoting the Landed Interest*.

And here my great Regard to the *Landed Interest*, which I have had much at heart in treating of this Affair, puts me upon taking notice of another Method of feeding *Hogs* in and about the City, viz. with *Blood*, *Guts of Fowls*, and even the

the *Flesh of dead Horses*, and other *Cattle* that die of Distempers.

I can never think that this can be wholesome Diet, and I can't but wish His *Majesty*, as well as my *Fellow Citizens*, would buy no other *Pork* but what is fed in the Country or near the Town with *Grains*, *Whey*, boil'd *Barley*, and *Pease*, which is the *Natural* and *Proper* Consumption for the Farmers *bad Corn*.*

But, say they, the *Distillers* will take off all our *bad Malt* and *Barley*, however Damaged, and pay ready Money for it.

But then it is at their own Price.

The Case in Answer to the Argument of the *Distillers* may be thus stated—When *Malt* and *Barley* bore a good Price in the Market, *Beans* and *Pease*, I mean *Hog-Pease*, were generally in Proportion. For Example, when *Brewers Malt* was at 25 s. to 28 or 30 s. *Distillers Malt* sold from 9 s. to 13 s. and say now, that *Brewers Malt* be from 16 s. to 24 s. *Distillers Malt*, in proportion, cannot exceed 9 s. *Hog-Pease* suppose are 17 s. the lowest;—I would ask any Farmer, whether an *equal Quantity of Malt* will not make a Hog as soon fat as the same Proportion of *Pease*?

If so, the *Profit* is *double* to the Farmer, by using his *cheapest* Commodity himself, and carrying the *best* for the highest Price to Market. And then he may sell his *Pease* from 17 s. to 23 s. a Quarter, and keep his *Malt* at 9 s. and 10 s. to feed his *Poultry* and *Pigs*.

* Here a late Pamphleteer has the Assurance to say, in Answer to this, p. 39. *That a Farmer can't fat his Bacon under 5 d. per Pound*; when it is notorious that the best *Westmorland* or *Yorkshire* Hams have been bought at the *Retailers* in *London* for Four-pence Half-penny or Five-pence per Pound.—Judge, whether it is worth while to take any further Notice of such a Writer?

And I have heard it often affirmed, that a Quarter of *Barley* ground, and made into Balls with *Graves* or other *Kitchen-stuff*, will go farther in feeding *Fowls* and *Hogs*, than a Quarter of *Pease* or *Beans*.

But pray, how do the Farmers in the *North* and *West* of *England* pay their Rents? As well as the more *Southern* ones, I believe, and yet they have not such gainful Ways (as they are pretended to be) of disposing of their bad Grain.

The Truth is, the *Distillers* have made use so long of flattering and deceitful Arguments, that they have almost persuaded the *Farmer* that they are really true, and that he will not be able to pay his Rent without making ready Money of the worst of his Commodities, which they have persuaded the *Wealthier* Farmers to believe are worth but a Trifle, and that it can be used in no other way.

This Argument suits very well with the *Rich* and *Lazy*, and frightens the *Poor Industrious* ones,—That if those who have great Stocks are for selling off their damaged Commodities for a Trifle, they must follow their Example, and take what they can get.

I must also take notice, that if the Increase of the *Distillery* goes on as it has done for late Years, those Estates that depend upon the Growth of *Hops*, must sink very much; for the Demand from the *Brewers* will certainly be less, which will not be felt so sensibly, till they have sold their great Stocks of *Ale* and *Strong Beer* that lie by them: And this directly and nearly affects the *Landed Interest*.

If our *Farmers* would return to their ancient Simplicity in *Dressing*, *Eating* and *Drinking*, without one *Distiller* in the Kingdom, they would
be

be enabled to pay their Rents better than they do now.

Ease and *Luxury* are come to such a Height, especially in the *Southern Countries*, that hardly any thing but *Tea* and *Coffee* will go down with them and their Families; and a *Dram* to prevent the *Colick*, recommended by their favourite Friend the *Distiller*, makes them dose away the Morning, and often the whole Day, very comfortably.

Their *Servants* love to imitate their *Betters*, and have convenient Houses planted thick in every Village, where they may have *Gin* in exchange for *Coals*, *Candles*, *Small-Beer*, *Bread* and *Cheese*, and *Meat*, which they have not Stomachs to eat. — How fit these poor Wretches are to do a Day's Work, I leave any body to imagine, and yet they expect as great, if not greater Wages.

In a little Time they will forget to brew, and good old *English Beer* and *Ale* be out of Fashion in a Country Farmer's House, where, instead of his Table filled with chearful Children round it, you will find a *Side-Board* adorn'd with a *Tea-Pot*, and *China-Dishes*, in the Center of which stands a *Punch-Bowl*; a weak *Child* or two troubled with *Nervous Disorders*, in one Corner, and the good *Man* and his *Wife* in their arm'd Chairs, afflicted with the *Drop/sy*, or some other *Chronical Distemper*, complaining of the *Cheapness* of *Corn*, and the *Badness* of the *Times*.

These are some of the noble *Effects* of *Cordials* and *Distilled Waters*, sent down to them in return for their bad *Barley* and *Malt*. And indeed if *Laziness* increases, the Ground will produce little else.

Sure we may be allowed to think that at least so great a Blessing does not wait upon the *Idle*,
Sloth-

Slothful, Luxurious Person, as it does on the *Industrious, Sober, Religious* Farmer; —

Who has a *Head* clear from the Fumes of these noxious Spirits, and a *Heart* lifted up in grateful Acknowledgments to his Creator for what he has, and depends upon Providence for the Continuance and Improvement of it; whilst he contentedly enjoys the Fruits of his Labours without turning them into Occasion of Sin; without desiring to be a Gainer, by the Ruin of the Souls and Bodies of so many of his *Fellow Creatures*; this Man is much likelier to pay his *Rent* well, than the other; to have *honest Servants*; live many happy Years, and leave a *healthy strong* Race behind him, to follow his worthy Example.

England must return to its ancient *Frugality*, or it will suffer both in her *Trade* and in the *Landed Interest*.

Thrift, good Husbandry, and Sobriety, are Virtues which render a Country Rich and Powerful. What is true in private Persons, will hold as to the Community. “ There is (as a very great “ Author observes) a *Degree of Expence* which “ no Nation can exceed without utter Ruin, and “ the *Publick* may become a *Bankrupt*, as well “ as a private Person. Whatever Nation is at a “ greater Expence than a just Balance (which “ arises from its Exchange with other Places of “ its *Natural* and Artificial Products) will as “ surely be ruined in time, as a *Private Person*, “ who every Year spends more than the Income “ of his Estate.”

That Private Vices are Publick Benefits, will be found to be the most unpolitick, as well as wicked Saying in the World.

It was *Thrift, Sobriety, and Virtue* that laid at first, and continued so long the Grandeur of the
Roman

Roman Empire; when they lost their first *Simplicity*, and sunk into *Effeminacy* and *Luxury*, they soon became a Prey to the most barbarous Nations.

I shall end this Point, with a Paragraph from a Sermon preach'd last Year, before the Trustees of the Lower *Infirmery* at *Westminster*, by the Right Reverend Dr. SHERLOCK, Lord Bishop of *Salisbury*.

“ One would imagine (says his Lordship) that
 “ a Man who wanted *Food* and *Raiment*, and all
 “ other Necessaries of Life, was pretty well secured
 “ against the *Excesses* of *Strong Liquors*, or
 “ any other Temptations which must exhaust his
 “ little *Stock*, and leave him unable to provide for
 “ his Wants.

“ But the Case is far otherwise.

“ The *General Corruption of Manners* too plainly
 “ to be seen in the Country, has spread amongst
 “ the Lowest, and *Necessity* itself is grown *Luxurious*.

“ It is very much to be lamented, that so much
 “ *Art* and *Skill* has been shewn of late Years, to
 “ make *Drunkennes* the *Cheapest* of all *Vices*; for
 “ it has already made it the *commonest*, and let in
 “ all the *Vices* which follow the *Excess* upon the
 “ poorest of our People, who were formerly so
 “ far happy in their *Poverty*, that their Want secured
 “ them from many *Vices*, to which their
 “ *Richer Neighbours* were exposed,” p. 16, 17.
Quarto.



A

PHYSICAL ACCOUNT

Of the NATURE of all

Distilled Spirituous Liquors,

AND THE

Malignant EFFECTS they have upon
HUMAN BODIES.

Promised in the Beginning, a *Physical Account* of the Nature of all *Spirituous Distilled Liquors*, and the Effects that they have upon Human Bodies, grounded upon the Experiments of a very Curious Gentleman, to whom the learned World, and especially the Physicians, have been indebted for many nice and uncommon Observations ; I have also had the Opinion of two or three eminent Physicians in Town : But if any Doubt is made in relation to the poisonous Qualities of these *Distilled Spirits*, it is heartily wished that the College of PHYSICIANS might be called upon, to give their Sentiments.

CHYMISTS,

CHYMISTS, who have distilled and rectified these *Spirits* so high, as to separate them, as much as may be, from their more *watery Parts*, have found, that on all possible Trials, all *Distilled Fermented Spirits* are the same; whether distilled from the fermented Juice of *Grapes*, or from *Corn, Grain*, or other *fermented Fruits*.

The Truth of this appears from hence :

Put small Pieces of *Raw Flesh* into any of these *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*, whether *Brandy* alone, or any Composition mixed with it, as *Orange Brandy, Ratifia, Cinamon Water, Citron Water, Plague or Surfeit Water* ; and it has been found by repeated Trials, that these all *harden* it, after having lain in some Time.

A plain and obvious *Proof*, that since they all have the same Effect on *Flesh*, the *Spirit* of them all is the same ; consequently the pernicious *Effects* of all these *Distilled Spirituous Liquors* upon Human Bodies are found to be the same.

It is well known, that Multitudes in or near *Sea Port Towns* are as effectually destroyed by the habitual Drinking of *French Brandy*, as those are who are habituated to any other *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*.

This is the Case too with those whose Wealth can supply them with the more costly and palatable *Cordials*.

They find the same *Dispiritedness, Want of Appetite, and Longings* after repeated Doses.

The same holds true of *Rum*, which destroys Multitudes in *America*, and has even depopulated whole Countries of the native *Indians*.

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And

And the excessive drinking of *Rum Punch* is looked upon to be the Cause of the late great Mortality in *Jamaica*.

Yet how common is it to hear Men call *Rum* a wholesome Liquor ?

It is *oily*, and must be wholesome, (say they) because that if *Raw Flesh* be put into it, it will preserve it *plump, fresh, supple, and soft* ; whereas *Brandy hardens it*.

And so does *Rum* too, when it has continued in it *some Time, sooner or later, in Proportion to its Strength*.

And this holds good of all other *Distilled Spirituous Liquors* : Some may indeed be more palatable than others ; but they are all, in a manner, equally pernicious and dangerous, that are of equal Strength ; and those most destructive, which have the most Spirit in them. Which Spirit being of a harsh, fiery, and acrimonious Nature, as it is found, for want of Nourishment, to seize on and harden *Raw Flesh* put into it, so it does greatly injure the *Stomach, Bowels, Liver, and all other Parts of human Bodies* ; especially the *Nerves*, the immediate and principal Instruments of Life.

It is observable, that every Thing that has pass'd the Fire, so that it has had due Time to divide and penetrate its Parts, as far as it possibly can, retains a *caustick, corrosive, and burning Quality* ever afterwards.—This is evident from the fiery and burning Touch and Taste of new-drawn Spirits ; as also from the burning of *Lime-stone*, which, though extinguished by boiling Water, does ever after retain its heating and drying Quality, as appears from the great Use of *Lime Water* in drying up all humid Sores, when given inwardly by itself, or compounded with sudorific

rific Woods and Roots, and from its *Success* in outward Applications for the same Purposes.

If it be true, (as it may be demonstrated) that the Constitution cannot be preserved in Health, unless the *Fluids* have a determinate Degree of *Fluidity*, and the *Canals* or containing Vessels a determinate Degree of *Elasticity* or *Springiness*; it necessarily follows, that such Liquors, as have a natural Tendency to render the *Fluids* too *viscid* and *acrimonious*, and the solid containing Vessels too narrow and rigid, must, like Poisons, unavoidably cause such a Disorder in the Animal System, as cannot fail to produce, if not immediately, yet in a very short Time, *Chronical Distempers* of the most fatal kind, viz. *Consumptions*, *Dropsies*, *Jaundice*, &c. to say nothing of Acute Disorders, such as *Pleurisies*, *Fevers*, and the like; whose Symptoms are undoubtedly greatly aggravated, and often rendered incurable, by the previous Abuse of *Hot Spirituous Liquors*. This will be attested by every *Physician* of any Practice about Town; And farther, that though these and other *Chronical Distempers*, when they happen to *temperate Persons*, are often cured by the Help of Medicine, this is hardly ever the Case with those that are addicted to the drinking of Spirits.

The Constitution of the Blood is observed to be spoiled by it; its *Red Parts* being consumed, whereby the Blood is impoverished to such a Degree, as to have ten times more *Serum* in it than *Red Parts*: Whence *Hectick Fevers*, *Consumptions*, and the like Diseases.

Hence it is, that these *Spirituous Liquors* rarely fail to destroy the *Appetite* and *Digestion* of those who habituate themselves to them; for by weakening the *Nerves*, they make them insensible.

When first drank, they seem to comfort the Stomach, by contracting its too relaxed and flabby *Fibres*, as also to warm the Blood; But the Coats of the Stomach soon *relaxing* again, the unhappy Persons are thereby soon reduced to a *cold, languid and dispirited* State, which makes them impatient to get rid of it, by fresh Supplies of the same deadly Liquor, which, instead of Curing, dailing increases the Disease.

Whence also sometimes great Loss of Blood, by the *Blood-Vessels* being *corroded* and *torn asunder*; or else, by being too much *weakened, relaxed* and *broken*, the *thin sharp Serum* easily *ouzes* through their Substances, and throws those unhappy Persons into fatal *Dropsies*.

When they are not drank in such large Quantities as to kill *immediately*, but are daily used; then, besides many other Diseases, they are apt to breed *Polypus's* or *Fleshy Substances* in the Heart; which *Polypus's*, as they grow larger, do, by hindering and retarding the Motion of the Blood through the Heart, thereby farther contribute to the *Faintness* and *Dispiritedness* of those unhappy Persons; and at length, by totally stopping the Course of the Blood, as effectually kill, as if a Dart had been struck through the Liver.

There are indeed some few of so strong a Constitution, that they can lead an intemperate Life for a Number of Years, without feeling any sensible Decay.

Yet in the End they usually pay dear for their former Excesses, when the Effects of these Strong Liquors vent themselves in Sickness and Diseases, and make the unhappy Wretches a miserable Monument of the sad Effects of the beastly Sin of Drunkenness.

But

But *these Distilled Spirituous Liquors* have a more certain ill Effect upon the *Children* of the *Mothers* that habituate themselves to the Drinking of them, who come *half burnt up* and *shrivelled* into the World: Dreadful Monuments of their Parents *Cruelty, Debauchery* and *Inhumanity* !

How many, born with good Constitutions, have unhappily drunk this deadly Poison with their Nurse's Milk !

And how many other Children are effectually destroyed, through the Indiscretion of their Parents, by teaching them in their younger Years to drink these pernicious Liquors ? For Nature is then under a Necessity of drawing out very *slender Threads of Life*, when the Nourishment of either *unborn* or *born* Children is harden'd and spoiled by such burning Cauteries.

The Mischiefs attending this pernicious Custom, with the Prejudice to Children both *before* and *after* they are born, because it is not commonly known, will require a little more Pains in the Representation of it ; the Words must be chosen plain and intelligible to all, industriously avoiding such Terms, as, however familiar to Scholars, are not so to the Sex I am speaking to. Something I have to say to the *Mother*, something to the *Nurse*, something to both together ; though indeed what is said to either of the *Two*, may be applied to the Other ; the Nourishment, and consequently the *Life* and *Health* of the Child depending upon both alike.

It is evident, that Children, Before they are born, can have no Nourishment but what they have from the *Mother* ; which must come from the *Meat* and *Drink* whereby she is nourished herself.

If

If therefore *Child-bearing Women* are habituated to strong inflaming Liquors, the little *Embryos* must and will have a Share: and since the proper and chief Diet of Children, for a considerable Time after they are born, is *Milk*, a soft and mild Liquor; a Diet of Nature's own providing, agreeable we may be sure, for that Reason, to their weak and tender Constitutions; we may conclude certainly, that *Hot Spirituous Liquors* must greatly prejudice them before they are born. Accordingly we might have observ'd formerly, that the Children of poor labouring Women, who seldom, if ever, drank any such Liquors, were generally more strong and hearty, and throve better, than those of Persons who drank to Excess.

As for *Nurses*, it must be observed, that their *Milk* is nothing else but the *Meat* and *Drink* they take in, which though they may be somewhat altered and prepared in the *Stomach* and other *Passages* to the Breast, are not so altered, as to lose their *Natures* or *prime Qualities*: for it is Matter of Fact, that if a *Nurse* takes a Medicine of a *purging* Nature, it will *purge* the Child that is suckled, and that too when it is not so strong as to purge the *Nurse* herself: If She drinks burnt Wine, or other Liquors of a *high* strong *Taste* or *Smell*, that very *Taste* and *Smell* will be soon communicated to the *Milk*, which the Child is to suck. And can it then be imagined, that *strong inflaming Liquors* will not affect, will not prejudice their *weak* and *tender* Infants? Yes! we see and hear of Numbers of lamentable Instances of Children coming into the World half burnt up, upon the Livers of some of which are found large *schirrous* Knots, and the smaller Vessels of others broke, and other terrible Symptoms,

ptoms, which render them weak and sickly, which often destroys them in two or three Years; and if they should survive a little longer, it will only be to drag on a miserable Life, a Burthen to themselves, and a Load to their Country.

Another, and yet more mischievous, Consequence of the *Mothers* or *Nurses* habituating themselves to Strong Liquors, is, that the immoderate Love of such Poisons seems to be communicated to the Children from the very Womb that bare them: for *Custom* is a *Second Nature*, and what is *sucked in with the Mother's Milk*, is proverbial to signify a strong *Adherence* or *Love* to any thing.

Thus may Children come to a Love of Strong Liquors before they can call for them, or even see them. However strange this may seem, yet I am apt to think, there is too much Truth in it: Not to mention many Philosophical Reasons, the extraordinary and otherwise, perhaps, unaccountable Love and Desire of such Liquors, in some Persons above others, and that whilst they are in the *State of Childhood*, as well as when they are grown into Men, may not improbably be ascribed to so early an Use of them, especially in Conjunction with other Causes. *Dion*, a *Roman* Historian of good Repute, tells us, that *Caligula's* Nurse used to rub her Nipple with *Blood*, and made him suck it with her Milk; and observes upon it, that he not only became afterwards a *Man of Blood*, a *Monster of Cruelty*, but through an insatiable Desire of Blood, would *suck* and *lick* off with his Tongue the Blood that stuck upon his *Sword* or *Dagger*.

The Application is easy. — *Mothers* therefore and *Nurses* are bound by all the Tyes of *Natural* and *Revealed Religion*, of *Reason* and *Interest*,

terest, of Love to Themselves, or Regard to Posterity, to avoid all Spirituous Liquors, as they would shun a slow Poison, which they are sure will in a few Years destroy themselves, and leave their Husbands childless, and their Estates without Heirs.

In a Word,——The Physicians complain, that Spirits which are inflamed by repeated Distillations, are in a manner *direct Poison to Human Bodies*, which are most of them of too delicate a Make to bear, for any considerable Time, the being burnt up with such *Corrosives*.

Hence it is, that *Physicians* complain that their Prescriptions or Medicines are found to have little or no Effect, towards the restoring those unhappy Wretches, when sick, to their Healths.

As these *Spirits* have the same *Effects* that *Poisons* have, (and it is by the Effects that all Poisons are known) so we need not scruple to call them *Poisons*, always supposing the Dose frequently repeated. It is true, this deadly Liquor does not always destroy immediately; neither does Poison do so.—Some Sorts there are, as we are told, will kill in Three Years, some in Six, and others do require yet more Time for the fatal Operation: Some Persons have taken *Rank Poison*, and by the mere Strength of their Constitutions have worked it off, as they do a Surfeit; whilst others are laid down in their Beds, and in their Graves too, by one single Debauch. Some again have, by Degrees and long Use, come to bear *Strong Poison*, and that in such Quantities, as would quickly destroy others: So *Drink* of a stronger *Body and Spirit*, and in larger Proportions, has the like *malignant and destructive* Nature; though it be *slower* in its Operation with *one* than *another*, yet in the end

end kills as surely, though not always immediately.

The too frequent Use of Hot Things, either *solid* or *liquid*, are apt to give a *Succour* and *Ple-nitude*, for which we often have no Occasion: *Heat* is certainly necessary to all the *Operations of Life*, but then it should be a *moderate Heat*; a just Measure, or equal Proportion of *Heat*, assists all the Faculties of *Life*, *Sense*, and *Motion*; too much clogs the *Wheels*, and the *Machine* or *Heart* stands still for want of *Water* to lubricate its *Motion*. *Hot* and *Consumptive Persons* are generally *lean* and *meagre*, and the *Inhabitants* of the *cold Countries* fatter than those of the *hot*: We have a better *Appetite* in *Winter* than in *Summer*; and *Animals* that live in *Water* have *stronger Digestions* than those which have the *Earth* and *Air* for their *Element*.

From these Observations of *simple Nature*, it appears, how improper *all extreme Degrees of Heat* are to promote or encourage our *Appetites*, *Digestion*, or *Nourishment*.

The Excesses of *hot inflammatory Liquors* are yet more prejudicial to all the Functions of *Nature*, wasting the *Spirits*, from the grosser Parts too precipitately, and leaving the Body *Vapid*, and as it were *Lifeless*.—A *Fever*, which is only an *excessive Heat*, dissipates all before it, whether *Natural*, *Vital*, or *Animal*, quickly exhausting all the Sources of *Life*, and weakening the Body so much, that it never recovers till a *Calm* succeeds, and by the Help of good *Nourishment*, the exhausted *Spirits* are recruited, and *Life*, as it were, called back to its former Habitation. Men of *Sanguine Complexions* seldom live so long as Men of *cool Temperaments*; tho' these Fevers are usually very dangerous and fatal,

the *Principles* and *Spirits* of their *Life* are in too violent a Motion to keep long Possession : When *Fire* takes hold, it quickly consumes the *Foundation*, and the Violence of the Motion unhinges the whole *Machine*. *Passionate* and *Choleric* Persons are commonly *Weak* and *Sickly*, and a Youth of a mild *Disposition*, shall often outlive a *robust strong Man* of the *greatest Virility*. Greatly therefore are they regardless of their *Healths*, who increase and inflame their youthful *Blood* by *Spirits* or other Instruments of Excess.

From the habitual drinking these *Spirits*, arises this Train of *Evils*, viz. *Palpitations* of the *Heart*, *Oppressions* in the *Stomach*, *Syncopes*, *Asthmas*, &c. &c. all which occasion great Disorders in the *Bowels*, and *Viscera*, especially the *Liver* and *Spleen*, the *Mesentery*, *Sweetbread*, and *Kidneys*, in which the *Blood-Vessels* are very narrow and small; and for this Reason it is, that these Parts are the usual Residence of *Scirrhus's*, or HARD KNOBS; which are almost constantly found in these Parts of the Bodies of those unhappy Wretches, that have been habitual Drinkers of *Spirituos Liquors*.

Heat and *Dryness* are the greatest Enemies to *Fruitfulness* in the World, especially when the Heat of the *Blood* and *Intrails* is augmented with strong inflammatory *Liquor*. A gentle Heat is of great use in all the Operations of Nature, in *Fermentations*, *Filtrations*, *Precipitations*, or *Infusions*, but excessive Heat is an Obstacle to them all. Boil *Must*, and you will find it ferment no more, as having lost all its *Spirit*, to which the *Fermentation* was owing. To refine a *Liquor* by *straining*, you must not put it boiling hot into the *Strainer*, for the *gross* and *fine* will both pass together. To purify by *Precipitation*, stay
till

'till it settles, which it will not do while it is too hot: *Wine* is not drinkable, 'till its first *Fermentation* is over, after which the *Lees* sink to the Bottom.

The *salutary Crisis* of a *Fever*, which is only a Separation of the *Ferment*, never happens during the great *Heat* and *Ebullition* of it; but towards the End of the *Fit*, when the *Heat* of the *Blood* begins to moderate. And a *brisk Fire* dissipates and wastes the *finest* and *best* Parts we want to make use of, by separating them from the less useful.

It could easily be proved, from all these Observations, (which were made by a very eminent Physician,) that *Distilled Spirituous Liquors* are the greatest Enemies to *Fertility*: For this Reason, if there were no other, the *Legislature* will think it worth their most serious Consideration, how to put a Stop to an *Evil* that directly tends to the *decreasing* as well as *weakening* the *Breed* of the Nation.

The *Bodies* of Men, as I have prov'd before, are without doubt the most valuable *Treasure* of a Country, and in their Sphere the *ordinary People* are as serviceable to the Commonwealth as the *Rich*, if they are *able* to work, or are employed in honest Labour and useful Arts; and such being more in Number, do more contribute to the Nation's *Wealth* than those of *higher Rank*.

Whatever therefore hinders the *Increase* or *weakens* the laborious Hands, is an *Evil* of the most pernicious and dangerous Nature, and ought by all means to be immediately suppressed, and totally prohibited.

That this is the *natural* and *known* Effect of the habitual drinking of all *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*, I hope has been evidently proved.

That there is in Fact a *Decrease* in the *Bulk* of the People within the *Bills of Mortality*, will appear from the following Observations.

To say, That the *Bills of Mortality* have decreased very much this last Year, is little to the Purpose; for compare the 'Total of the *Births* and *Burials* together, and you will find that there is a great Disproportion between the *first* and the *latter*, which has not formerly been the Case. How *London* is supplied with Hands, which the Country want, I have shewn in another Place, *viz. From the Flux of People from all Parts of the Kingdom.* I would also observe farther, from the last Year's Accounts of *Births* and *Burials* from the City of *Paris*, and from many other Cities of Note, which I have by me, That the *first* exceed the *latter* by some Hundreds; and so they would be found to do in *London*, if the Common People lived as soberly as they do in Places where Spirits are not drunk to Excess.

And here I cannot forbear mentioning what an Eminent *Physician* assured me, That in the last *Epidemical Sicknefs* in 1733, it fell mostly among the *Ordinary People*, and that the Medicines prescribed had little or no Effect towards Curing any of those miserable Wretches, who had habituated themselves to the drinking of *Gin* and other Spirituous Liquors; and it is the declar'd Sense of the Whole Faculty, that if an habitual Drinker of Spirits is seiz'd with any acute Distemper, they immediately give him over for lost. — However, they may set him up for a short Time, his Liver is spoilt, and he falls into a *Dropsie* or *Jaundice*, which are Distempers often cured, when they proceed from other Causes, but hardly ever in an habitual Drinker of Drams; and that This was one great Reason,
that

that it proved so fatal to them. To say, That Numbers died at the same Time in some other Parts of the Nation, where Spirits were little drank, is no Answer at all. — They did not die in Proportion to the Number that died in *London*. Besides, they wanted the Assistance of skilful Physicians, which Numbers of poor People in this City had, and yet died. And so it will be found in every Epidemical Distemper, only with more aggravated Circumstances, the farther the *Infection* spreads, and the longer Time the *Poison* has to corrupt and destroy the *Inwards*.

It is a *Popular Objection* against the putting down *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*, — That our Sailors cannot live without Rum or Brandy.

I would observe, in Answer to this, That our Sailors, in the *West Indies* die in great Numbers, by drinking Spirits. And in *Jamaica*, *Antigua*, and *Barbados*, where, from the Necessity of drinking much, because of the Violence of the Heat; and from the Want of *Madeira* Wines, and other proper Liquors there, they are forced to drink much P U N C H; though *Lemons* and *Oranges* are in their full Perfection, they are universally afflicted with *Nervous* and *Mortal Dry Belly-aches*, *Palsies*, *Cramps*, and *Convulsions*, which carry them off in a few Days, entirely owing to this poisonous Mixture. — And this was the principal Occasion (as I am well informed from those Parts) of the last Years great Mortality in *Jamaica*.

The Physicians in Sea-port Towns will assure you, That few Sailors, who have been habituated to the drinking of Spirits, outlive any Acute Distemper.

I believe it would be found much more agreeable to them, and a better *Cordial* to our Sailors,
to

to have good *English Strong Beer* ; and where that will not keep, *strong Madeira* or *Mountain Wine*, with *Water*.

A late Pamphleteer has made himself very merry, with the *Dutchmen* drinking *Spirits*, and agreeing mighty well with their *Healths*. — I will help him with a great many other Countries, such as *Denmark*, *Sweden*, *Russia*, where large Quantities of Spirituous Liquors are drank, with less Inconvenience, than they can be in our own Country. — Here I will only appeal to those worthy Gentlemen who serv'd in the late Wars in *Germany* and *Flanders*, who have often assur'd me, that Half a Pint, nay, sometimes a Pint of *Brandy*, would but just raise a *Dutchman's* Spirits to a proper Pitch to vent his Fury on the Enemy ; but if an *English* Soldier drank half that Quantity, it made him mad, and set him a fighting with the next Person that he met with. — It ought also to be observed, That there are more *Nervous Disorders* in *England*, than in all *Europe* besides ; and for that very Reason, if there were no other, *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*, as they directly prey upon the whole Nervous System, ought to be restrain'd, and plac'd out of the Reach of the *Labouring* People, the *Support*, *Strength*, *Sinews*, and *Riches* of the Nation.

I cannot forbear inserting in this Place the Words of an eminent Physician, who has very warmly expostulated with the Persons of both Sexes that are addicted to this Vice.

CHENEY's *Essay of Health and Long Life*,
page 49, &c.

“ They begin (*says he*) with the weaker
“ Wines ; These, by *Use* and *Habit*, will not do,
“ They

“ They leave the Stomach sick and mawkish ;
 “ they must fly to stronger Wines, and stronger
 “ still, and run the Climax from *Brandy* to
 “ *Barbados Waters*, and double-distill'd Spirits,
 “ 'till at last they find nothing hot enough for
 “ them.

“ People who have any Regard to their
 “ Healths and Lives, ought to tremble at the
 “ first Cravings for such poisonous Liquors.

“ *Strong Waters* should never be taken but by
 “ the Direction of a Physician, or in the Agonies
 “ of Death.

“ Did only the *Profligate*, the *Scoundrel*, the
 “ *Abandoned* run into these Excesses, 't were in
 “ vain to endeavour to reclaim them, as it were
 “ to stop a Tempest, or calm a Storm.

“ But now that the Vice is grown *Epidemical*,
 “ since it has got not only amongst *Mechanicks*, and
 “ the *lowest Kind of People*, but amongst Persons
 “ of the highest *Genius*, and finest *Taste*, and the
 “ most accomplished *Parts*, and, (Oh ! says he,
 “ that I could give my Conscience the Lie, in
 “ mentioning them) even among the *first* and
 “ *least* fall'n Part of the Creation itself.

“ A Fit of the *Colick*, or of *Vapours*, a *Family*
 “ *Misfortune*, the *Death* of a *Child*, or a *Friend*,
 “ and a *casual Disappointment*, often give Rise to,
 “ and become the weighty Causes of such an Effect :
 “ A little *Lowness* requires Cordials, which pass
 “ readily down, under the Notion of *Physick*.
 “ *Cordials* beget *Drams*, 'till they come to be
 “ without Weight and Measure ; so that, at
 “ last, the miserable Creature suffers a real *Mar-*
 “ *tyrdom*, between its natural *Modesty*, and the
 “ great Necessity of concealing its Cravings,
 “ and the still greater one, of getting them
 “ satisfied *some how*.

“ Higher

“ Higher and more severe Fits of *Hystericks*,
 “ *Tremors*, and *Convulsions*, begot by these, bring
 “ forth farther *Necessity* upon *Necessity*, of *Drams*
 “ and *Gills*, 'till at last a kind *Dropsy*, *nervous*
 “ *Convulsions*, a *nervous Atrophy*, or a *colliquative*
 “ *Diarrhæa*, if not a *Fever*, or a *Phrenzy*, sets
 “ the poor Soul free.

“ Did this bewitching Poison actually cure
 “ or relieve them, from time to time, something
 “ might be said, to extenuate the *Folly* and
 “ *Phrenzy* of such a Course.

“ But, on the contrary, it heightens and en-
 “ rages all their *Symptoms* and *Sufferings* ever
 “ afterwards, excepting the few Moments im-
 “ mediately after taking it down.

“ And every *Dram* begets the *Necessity* of *two*
 “ more to cure the ill *Effects* of the first.

“ And one Minute's Indolence they purchase
 “ with many Hours of greater *Pain* and *Misery* ;
 “ besides the making the *Malady* more incur-
 “ able.

“ *Low-spiritedness*, in itself, is no Disease ; be-
 “ sides that there are *Remedies* in *Art* that will
 “ always relieve it, as long as there is any *Oil*
 “ left in the *Lamp*.

“ The running into *Drams*, is giving up the
 “ Whole at once ; for neither *Laudanum* nor
 “ *Arsenic* will kill more certainly, although
 “ more quickly. The Pretence of its being
 “ *Physick*, or a present *Remedy*, is trifling.
 “ *Cordials* of any Kind, even out of the *Apothe-*
 “ *caries* Shops, are but *Reprieves* for a Time, to
 “ gain a *Respite*, 'till proper and extirpating
 “ *Remedies* can take Place ; and are never to be
 “ used twice, the one immediately after the other,
 “ but in the last *Necessity* : And I can honestly
 “ say, I never failed of relieving, so as to make
 “ Life

“ Life tolerable, *Vapourish*, *Hysteriacal* or *Hypocondriacal* Persons, who would be governed in their *Diet*, by the Use of other proper *Means*, if there was a *Fund* in *Life*, and no *incurable* Disease, complicated with *Lowness*.

“ Thus much the *Weight* of the Subject forced from me ; more than this, its *Disagreeableness* hinders me to say. ”

As the LEGISLATURE are the GUARDIANS of our *Lives*, as well as our *Liberties* and *Fortunes*, from Them it is that we must expect a *Cure* from this Evil, at least to put these cursed *Spirits* out of the Reach of the *lower Kind of People* : The *Rich* and *Great* we must leave to their own Reason, and to the Advice of an *honest* and *skilful Physician*, who will assure them of the Truth of what I have said ; and will be able to prescribe such Remedies as may restore them to their *Healths*, provided Nature be not too far worn out, and they will resolve to forbear indulging in what they cannot but be conscious is certain Poison to them.

We can do no more than set the Danger before them, and intreat them, by all the Arguments of *Reason*, *Interest*, and *Religion*, to leave off so mischievous a Custom :

Which destroys their *Healths*, ruins their *Estates*, and is often the Cause of Melancholy and Despair, which ends in a Pistol, or a Dose of some quicker Poison.

And if they have any Regard to Posterity, they will never suffer themselves to be led into the drinking of *Distilled Spirituous Liquors*, or *Cordials*, which will certainly have a baneful Influence upon their Children, if they have any :

For *Impotence* and *Barrenness* are the natural Consequences of *great Intemperance*, but especially of drinking *Spirituous Liquors*.

But I shall say no more to these.

We certainly have a Right to confine the *lower Part* of Mankind from injuring themselves by excessive drinking of these or any other Strong and Poisonous Liquors :

And this for a very good Reason ;

Because, when they have brought themselves, by their Debauchery, into Weakness, Misery, Sickness, and Poverty, the Law has obliged us to maintain them. We may and ought therefore to make Laws that will be effectual to restrain and lock up, or place out of their Reach, what necessarily brings them to Penury and Want.

Why are there severe Penalties against selling bad Meat ? Is it not because it is justly apprehended that it will hurt the Persons that eat it ? And I suppose it was never thought any Injury to the Butcher, that his *rotten Mutton*, or *measly Pork* was burnt, and himself punished.

Will not the same Reason hold much stronger against the vending a Liquor, which has been proved to be the Ruin of so many Thousands, highly prejudicial to the Interest of the Nation in general, and to every single Person in it, except the Persons who are Gainers by the Distilling of it : even these are sometimes punished by their own Servants Carelessness, and their Houses and Stock fired.

And this puts me in Mind of taking notice of the many *Fires* that have happened of late

late Years, by the flying off of the Heads of Stills, &c.

So that I really think these are as dangerous in a City as *Gunpowder Mills*.

We cannot omit taking notice here, of the late dreadful Fire in *St. Martin's Lane*, which begun in a *Gin-Shop*; and it is natural to expect, that this should often be the Consequence of drinking these Spirits to Excess; for it makes its *Votaries* the soonest, and all of a sudden, the deepest drunk, holds them the longest in the Fit, and deprives them more intirely of the Use of their intellectual Faculties, and bodily Organs, of any Liquor whatsoever.

The Infection spreads far and wide; and if it continues its destructive Conquests in the same Manner, and to the same Degree, that we have unhappily liv'd to see it advance within these thirty or forty Years, it must needs, in a few Generations, infect all Mankind with its baneful Influence.

For it makes its Way into the World as a *Friend* to Mankind, and insinuates itself under the Disguise of *grateful Flavours*; and under the Notion of *helping Digestion, comforting the Spirits, and chearing the Heart*, gains Ground, and produces direful Effects; and though they are so obvious, yet few lay it enough to Heart.

When the *Sachems* or *Chiefs* of the Five Nations of the *Mohawks* were in *England*, about twenty-five Years ago, and came to the Meeting of the *Corporation Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, They earnestly intreated, that Care might be taken, that *no Rum* might be sold to their People for the future, because it made them *mad, ungovern-*

able, and actually killed great Numbers of them *.

And the said *Society* have frequently and publicly complained, that one great Reason of the slow Progress of the Gospel in those Parts, has been occasion'd by debauching the *Morals* of the *Indians*, in promoting *Riots* and *Excess*, by the Sale of *Rum*; during which Traffick, all sober Endeavours used for their Salvation were rendered ineffectual: And as it manifestly hindered the Propagation of the Gospel in those Parts, so has it, in a manner, worn out all Traces of it among the *lower Part* of the People at *Home*: Neither its *Threats* nor *Promises* will make any Impression upon Wretches who have drunk away their *Reason* and *Understanding*, who are deaf to all Instruction: and if any serious Thought of what may come hereafter, should force a Way into their Hearts, they soon drown them, by a *new Inundation* of the same pernicious Poison that first led them into, and has ever since bound them in Chains *very difficult* to be broke; *Repentance* is hardly ever in the Power of an habitual Drinker, he is never cool enough to think; and if he should sometimes be afraid, he flies to his darling Cordial, the grand Preservative of Sloth, GENEVA, that infallible *Antidote* against *Care*, and *frugal Reflexion*; which being repeated, removes all Fear of sober Thought, and, in a little Time, cures the tormenting Sense of the most pressing Necessities: Without often repeating the Dose, *Sobriety* would, some time or other, overtake them; for this Reason, they are always swallowing, to stifle their Fear.

* See Abstract of the Proceedings of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for A. D. 1715.

To prevent, as much as possible, the horrid Scandal and Reproach to a Christian Country, of sending *Malefactors* drunk out of the World, it ought to be mentioned to the Honour of the late *Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen* ;

“ That they have given strict Orders to the
 “ *Keeper of Newgate* (and I hear that they are
 “ very well observed) not to suffer any Strong
 “ Liquors to be given to the Felons after Con-
 “ demnation, nor in the Way to the Gallows.”
 And it is to be hoped, the same wise Regulations will take place in the rest of the Gaols of the Kingdom.

And I hear that some good Orders have been made by the TRUSTEES of the *Lower Infirmary* at *Westminster*, That none shall be admitted into that Hospital, who are known to have contracted their Distempers by drinking of these Poisonous Spirits. And I hope the same Wise Rules will be follow'd by the several Hospitals in the City, as some Terror to these *Self-Murderers*.

The HEADS of the poor wild *Indians* in *New England*, *Carolina*, and other Parts of *North America*, sensible of the Destruction *Rum* makes amongst their People, have earnestly desired, that no such Liquors might be sold to their People, and that they cannot be answerable for their Actions when they are intoxicated with it.

And to the Honour of the TRUSTEES of *GEORGIA*, it must be mentioned here, That they have this last Year made an Act To prevent the Importation and Use of *Rum* and *Brandies* in the Province of *Georgia* ; which Act his Majesty thought proper to refer to the Consideration of a COMMITTEE of his MAJESTY'S most HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, who having received the Opinion of the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of TRADE
 and

and PLANTATIONS thereupon, and reported, as their Opinion, That the said Act was proper to receive his MAJESTY's Royal Approbation; which, with the Advice of his *Privy Council*, he was pleased to give accordingly, *April 3, 1735*. And it is not to be questioned, but the same gracious Concurrence will be shewn to any *Act of Parliament*, that shall be thought effectual to restrain nearer Home this terrible *Destroyer of Mankind*.

I dare not take upon me to mention any Methods, that may be proper to stop the bold Advances of this Monstrous Evil: It certainly deserves their most serious Consideration: All my Design has been to point out the dreadful Consequences of it, which are as numerous as they are plain and evident:

When instead of that *Diligence* in their Callings, that *Sobriety* and *Virtue*, which used to be found amongst the *lower Class of People*; nothing but *Drunkenness*, *Prophaneness*, *Dishonesty*, *Cursing* and *Swearing*, *Ungovernableness*, and whatever else has an ill Name, and ought to be dreaded by a *wise People*, as the *Bane of Religion* and *Good Manners*, and even of *Society* itself; has corrupted the Generality of them to such a Degree, as will make it very difficult ever to bring them to *Sobriety* and *Temperance*, or to be serviceable to the Publick, without *entirely* removing the *Cause* of these horrible Disorders.

The Effects of these pernicious *Liquors* are, to all sober Christians, a Matter of the highest Abomination: For how often do we hear the Name of the GREAT GOD profaned by the intoxicated Drinkers, while they are swallowing down their own Destruction? — How often are the publick Streets infested with these abominable

minable Wretches, whose horrid Oaths and dreadful Imprecations would endanger the drawing down God's Vengeance on the Kingdom, were it not for his infinite Mercy? — How often do we see *Women*, as well as Men, lying in the very Channels and Corners of Streets like dead Carcases, generally without Cloaths to protect them from the Inclemency of the Weather, or cover their Nakedness and Shame? — How many Breaches of the Peace, Children imbruing their Hands in their *Parents* Blood; How many dangerous Assaults and Murders have been occasioned by a mad unaccountable Rage and Fury, peculiar to these horrid *Liquors*, and occasioned by this Deluge of Debauchery? —

I could wish this Matter appeared in the same strong Light to all, as it does to me, there would be no need of the Interposition of the *Legislature*; but *Interest* will always be too strong for *Reason*, the World is so made, and there is no altering it without a thorough Change of Human Nature. This therefore makes the Necessity of *Laws* to inforce those Eternal ones of *Truth* and *Reason*, and to hinder People from ruining one another.

The Necessity of such a *Law* we are now pleading for; and if we can guess from the *Wishes* and *Inclinations* of every Person not directly interested in it, it is hardly to be doubted, but the Wisdom of the PARLIAMENT will find out a proper and effectual Remedy for so monstrous an Evil, which bids Defiance to the Civil Magistrate, and is grown too general and too bold to admit of any other Cure.

Sure therefore it is Time to complain, — to point out the Mischiefs that have already ensued, and the much greater that we must feel,
when

when perhaps too late in the next Generation, if a Stop be not now put to it.

The *Officers of the Army* justly and frequently complain of the *Insolencies, Murders, and Weaknesses* introduced by an Excess of this kind of Drunkenness, which, *different* from that of other Liquors, makes them *mad* and *ungovernable*. — Hence are the frequent Complaints of the gross Abuses offered by the inferior Soldiers to their Officers, which, though severely punished, yet are often repeated, with impudent Aggravations of their Guilt.

Hence we see healthy strong Fellows, brought out of the Country, in two or three Years time, by drinking these Spirits, hardly able to mount the Guard.

Dreadful and visible are the Effects already on the *Sea-faring Men*, as well as the *Soldiers*, of the Kingdom. It enervates them to so great a Degree, that in a little Time they will be fit for Nothing but a *profound Peace*, and will hardly be able to defend against a foreign Enemy the Blessings transmitted to us, through many Ages, by the Blood and Treasure of our worthy Predecessors.

The worthy Gentlemen of the *Army* and the *Fleet*, who have Seats in the House, will represent these Enormities in much stronger Colours than I am able to do, and no doubt will be heard with Attention equal to the Importance of the Complaint.

In short, all are in some measure interested in the Suppression of these cursed Liquors; all, who employ great Numbers of Hands, or who have but a few private Servants:

In these Places they are Corrupted, — here they are taught to Cheat, or Rob their Masters.

Beſotted

Besotted with these Spirituous Liquors, they become, if not *Mad* and *Furious*, *Careless* and *Stupid* to a Degree ; — Hence are the frequent Fires we hear of, *Nurses* overlaying Children, or, which is near as bad, giving them these Spirits to quiet them, which indeed it very often effectually does ; and if they do survive a few Years, 'tis only to drag on a *wretched, weak, useless, miserable* Life.

To remedy this, People have come into a Notion of bringing up their Children by hand, by which they have often lost them.

I dare say, there is not one single Member in the House, but heartily wishes for a Remedy to these Disorders ; and sure it is in their *Collective Power* to find a Cure.

When I began to write upon this Subject, I had collected several other *Enormities*, that naturally followed from the drinking of these *Poisonous Spirits*, but every Thing I have to say, has been happily forestalled, and set in such an admirable Light, by those *worthy Gentlemen*, in their Report given in to the Justices at the last Sessions at *Hicks's-Hall*, (printed in the *Appendix*) that I have nothing left to say, but to wish it may have the just Weight with the Publick, that a Paper drawn up with so much Care and Exactness deserves.

I cannot forbear concluding with an excellent Paragraph or two, from a Sermon preach'd some Years ago, by a Right Reverend and Worthy Prelate, who happily fills and adorns one of the highest Posts of the Church. *

* Dr. CHANDLER, Lord Bishop of *Litchfield* and *Coventry*, now of *Durham*, his Sermon before the Reformation Societies, 1724.

“ When the *Opportunities* and *Conveniencies* of
 “ Sinning (says his Lordship) are begun to be
 “ made easy, and *Publick Temptations* are laid in
 “ the Way of every Man that is disposed to be
 “ Vicious, then also is the Season for *Magi-*
 “ *strates* and *People*, to do what they may law-
 “ fully, to remove these *Means*, and to watch
 “ over the Occasion of a *general Corruption*.

“ The *Difficulties* and *Hazards* in Accomplish-
 “ ment of any Sin, have many a time proved
 “ *Discouragements* to the attempting of it, and
 “ have defended some from pursuing certain
 “ Vices, which they have not boggled at, when
 “ Matters were prepared to their Hands, with-
 “ out their *Labour* and *Contrivance*; — It is thus
 “ the *Patrons* of Debauchery do *cater* for the
 “ Pleasures of the *unenterprizing* Sinner, and
 “ make it their Trade to remove *Rubs* and
 “ *Obstacles* out of the Way of the *Cautious* and
 “ the *Lazy*.

“ Among the many Complaints of this Sort,
 “ that of *Strong-water Shops* is none of the least,
 “ by reason they are multiplied in such Numbers,
 “ and distributed into such convenient Distances
 “ for the Destruction of the Manners of the
 “ lower People, in all Parts of the Town;

“ That one cannot but be touched out of
 “ mere Humanity, with the Havock these
 “ *Liquors* make of so many of our *Fellow-Crea-*
 “ *tures*; — More of the common People die
 “ of *Consumptions*, *Fevers*, *Dropsies*, *Colicks*,
 “ *Palsies*, *Apoplexies*, contracted by the immo-
 “ derate Use of *Brandies* and *Distilled Waters*,
 “ than of *all* other Distempers besides arising
 “ from other Causes; *some* are burnt up and
 “ suffocated upon the Spot with the Flame of
 “ these *Hot Waters*; and they that bear them
 “ best,

“ best, feel a *Lowness* of Spirits, which eggs
 “ them on to repeat the Potion, and increasē
 “ its Quantities.

“ The *Poison* is more dangerous, because it
 “ is made to be *palatable*; it *warms the Stomach*,
 “ *appeases the Appetite of the Hungry*, and seems
 “ to enliven the *Weary*, at the same time that
 “ it is *wasting* the Spirits, and *preying* upon
 “ Life.

“ A Liquor so plausibly recommended, be-
 “ ing made every Body’s Money by its *Cheap-*
 “ *ness*, and placed as it were at their Door, is
 “ a shrewd Temptation to *Labouring People*,
 “ who are led by their Appetites to take too
 “ much and too often of it.

“ As this Abuse runs into a general Practice
 “ of *all Ages and Sexes*, it will be a fit Subject
 “ for the *Consideration of the Publick*, which is
 “ by this means diminished in its *Numbers*, even
 “ to a Degree of being felt; and deprived of
 “ the Use of many *Hands*, which grow *feeble*
 “ even before their *wasted Bodies* sink into the
 “ Grave.

“ But *They* are actuated still by *Nobler Mo-*
 “ *tives*, who join, in their Consideration of the
 “ Abuse, the *Inroads* that are commonly made
 “ upon the *Virtue* of those that frequent the
 “ Places where such Liquors are sold.

“ For *Strong Liquors* are not more the *Bane*
 “ of the Life of the *Body*, than they are of that
 “ of the *Soul*.

“ While they insensibly *abate* and *intoxicate*
 “ the Vigour of Reason, they *inflame* the Blood,
 “ and *heighten* the Passions, and so make People
 “ ready for any kind of Wickedness, to which
 “ their *P*ropensions, Company, or occurring
 “ Accidents shall invite them.

“ What

“ What should hinder Men or Women under
 “ the Influence of so powerful an *Opiate* to their
 “ Understanding, from proceeding to lewd and
 “ immodest Actions, to wild Frolicks and dan-
 “ gerous Engagements, through which they
 “ cannot afterwards easily break ; from ending
 “ in *Quarrels, Fightings, Murders*, of which we
 “ hear too often ?

“ Nothing on their own Part ; for they have
 “ drank themselves into the Condition to be
 “ their own Tempters ; *Shame, Fear, Prudence,*
 “ *Reason* being all laid asleep.

“ Nothing but want of *proper Opportunities*,
 “ which also it is said are *too often* prepared in
 “ some of these *Shops*.

“ And with these Accommodations, how
 “ unavoidable is the *Shipwreck* of their *Virtue* !

“ What a general Diffolution of *Manners*
 “ must ensue amongst the *Populace*, if good
 “ People have not an Eye to the Instrument
 “ with which so many *make themselves away*,
 “ and do not labour with the Magistrate to
 “ remove it out of the Reach of the *Many*, and
 “ to render it more difficult of Access ? ”



APPENDIX.

THE PRESENTMENT

OF THE
London GRAND-JURY,

*To the Right Hon^{ble} the LORD MAYOR, and
the rest of the JUSTICES OF OYER AND
TERMINER for the CITY OF LONDON.*

WE the *Grand Jury of the City of London*,
met at the present *Sessions* at the *Old
Bailey*, to enquire of and present such
publick *Nuisances* as disturb and annoy the Inha-
bitants of the City, think it our Duty to com-
plain of the late surprizing Increase of GIN-
SHOPS, and other *Retailers of Distilled Spirituous
Liquors*; which we have good Reason to appre-
hend (if not restrained) will be attended with
the most dreadful and lasting ill Consequences.

To this pernicious Practice is chiefly owing,

First, That our *lower Kind* of People are en-
feebled and disabled, having neither the *Will* nor
[b] Power

Power to labour for an honest *Livelihood* ; which is a principal Reason of the great *Increase* of the *Poor*.

Secondly, Servants are corrupted and bribed to cheat and rob their *Masters*.

Thirdly, The N A T I O N (if obliged to enter into a War) will want strong and lusty *Soldiers*, the MERCHANT *Sailors*, and the HUSBAND-MAN *Labourers* : The *Children* of the lower Kind of People addicted to this Vice, are observed even now to *lessen*, and will be proportionably *weakened* and *depraved* ; and as the *Strength* and *Riches* of any Nation arise principally from the Number of its strong and laborious Inhabitants ; so, consequently, in Proportion as these are *enfeebled* and *diminished*, must the *Riches* and *Power* of a Nation decrease.

Fourthly, To this dangerous Trade, in the midst of this great City, are, in some measure, owing the many FIRES that have happened of late, more than in former Years, and may, some time or other, be more general and fatal.

Fifthly, We take Leave to appeal to this HONOURABLE COURT for the Truth of this Observation, — That most of the *Murders* and *Robberies* lately committed, have been laid and concerted at GIN-SHOPS ; and being fired with these *Hot Spirits*, they are ready prepared to execute the most bold and daring Attempts.

Sixthly, The daily Increase of *Prophaneness* and *Immorality*, is owing to the Passions being inflamed by these SPIRITS ; the natural and common Product of which, is *Cursing*, *Swearing*, and *Fighting*, in our Steets ; *Women* throwing off all Shame and Modesty in the open Day ; and in private, not common Lust alone is satisfied, but *Rapes* and

and *Sodomy* are perpetrated, *Vices* which have prevailed more of late Years than they were formerly observed to do.

The WORTHY MAGISTRATES of this City, who have lately distinguished themselves by some wise and prudent Regulations of another Kind, would, we are confident, take all proper Methods of putting a Stop to so growing an Evil : From this not being done, we have Reason to apprehend, that the Laws now in Being are not effectual enough for this Purpose ; which, we hope, will be thought highly worthy the *Revisal*, *Consideration*, and farther *Improvement* of the *Legislature*.

In the mean time, We humbly hope the JUSTICES of the PEACE, and other Worthy Gentlemen in whose Power it is, will execute the Laws now in Being, which subject the Retailers of *Spirits* to the same Penalties as *Ale-houses* and *Tippling-houses* ; by enquiring into and punishing such as presume to sell *Spirits* without any *Licence* at all ; by withdrawing the *Licences* from such as keep disorderly Houses ; by immediately suppressing all scandalous *Night-Cellars*, open to the loofest of both Sexes, where They find a Concealment for their Stolen Goods, and where *Robberies* and *Murders* are concerted ; and by punishing all Persons, without Distinction, that are found in these Houses, and can give no good Account of themselves.

By these seasonable and such other Methods as, by the great Wisdom of this *Honourable Court*, may be farther suggested, improved, and universally and with *Steadiness* and *Courage* pursued, some Stop may be put to a Practice which leads

directly to the Ruin of many Thousands, highly detrimental to the *Trade, Peace, and Welfare* of this Great CITY, and of all Degrees of Men in it.

<i>Will. Staples, Jun.</i>	<i>Cyprian Randau,</i>
<i>John Adams,</i>	<i>Joseph Jones,</i>
<i>Richard Fenton,</i>	<i>Thomas Bamford,</i>
<i>Theoph. Kalmier,</i>	<i>John Holmes,</i>
<i>Henry Duck,</i>	<i>Samuel Read,</i>
<i>John Hider,</i>	<i>Anthony Clerembault,</i>
<i>Geo. Greenhill Jones,</i>	<i>Thomas Reddell,</i>
<i>Benjamin Brewwood,</i>	<i>Thomas Rush.</i>
<i>David Lequesne,</i>	

T H E
P R E S E N T M E N T
O F T H E
Middlesex GRAND-JURY.

WE the GRAND-JURY for the County of *Middlesex*, taking Notice of the vast Number of *Brandy and Geneva-Shops, Sheds, and Cellars*, of late set up and opened, for the Retailing of *Gin*, and other *Spirituuous Liquors*, which being sold at a very low Rate, the Meaner, though Useful Part of the Nation, as Day-labourers, Men and Women Servants, and common Soldiers, nay even Children, are enticed and seduced
to

to taste, like, and approve of those pernicious *Liquors* sold for such small Sums of Money, whereby they are daily intoxicated and get drunk, and are frequently seen in our Streets in a Condition abhorrent to reasonable Creatures.

It is visible, that by this destructive Practice, the Strength and Constitution of Numbers are greatly weakened and destroyed, and many are thereby rendered useless to themselves, as well as to the Community; many die suddenly by drinking to Excess, and infinite Numbers lay the Foundation of Distempers which shorten their Lives, or make them miserable, weak, feeble, unable and unwilling to work, a Scandal and Burden to their Country.

But it does not stop here; the unhappy Influence reaches to the Posterity of those poor unhappy Wretches, to the Children yet unborn, who come half-burnt and shrivelled into the World, who, as soon as born, suck in this deadly spirituous Poison with their Nurses Milk; the barbarous Mothers also often give the detestable Spirits to poor Infants in their Arms: So that, if the Infection spreads as it lately has done, it must needs make a general Havock, especially among the laborious Part of Mankind, who are seen manifestly to degenerate from the more manly and robust Constitutions of preceding Generations.

The natural Consequences of which will be, that His Majesty will lose Numbers of his Subjects, the Publick the Labour and Industry of her People, the Soldiery will be greatly weakened and enfeebled, and Masters will every Day have greater Reason to complain of bad and dishonest Servants, especially whilst that scandalous Custom prevails amongst Chandlers, and other lower
Trades,

Trades, of giving Drams, making them incapable of doing their Business, saucy to their Superiors, and in the End tempts them to cheat and rob their Masters, to supply themselves with large Quantities of this destructive Liquor.

We therefore the GRAND JURY aforesaid, do present all such *Brandy* and *Geneva-Shops, Sheds* and *Cellars*, where *Gin* and other *Spirituous Liquors* are sold and vended by Retail, as publick Nuisances, which harbour, entertain, and shelter the Indolent, Dissolute, and incorrigibly Wicked, that are a high Grievance, and of the greatest ill Consequence to all our Fellow-Subjects, as most plainly appear by the daily Meetings and Associations of Numbers of loose and disorderly Persons of both Sexes in these Places, where, after they have drank of this most pernicious Liquor, they are ready for, and actually do spirit up each other to perpetrate and execute the most bold, daring, and mischievous Enterprizes, and shaking off all Fear and Shame, become audaciously impudent in all manner of Vice, Lewdness, Immorality, and Profaneness, in Defiance of all Laws human and divine.

We therefore earnestly hope, that the Magistrates will unanimously and vigorously put the Laws already made, and which have any relation to the rooting out this pernicious Custom, in full Execution : That they will punish severely all Transgressors of them, and use their utmost Endeavours to put some Stop to the bold Encroachments of this terrible Destroyer of our Fellow-Creatures ; which, we apprehend, will greatly conduce to the Honour and Glory of God, to the Safety, Happiness, Welfare, and Benefit of the Nation in general, and of every Family

Family in particular, and will be a Means to secure the Health and Strength of our Posterity.

If the Laws already made should not be found sufficient to put a Stop to a Custom so universal, and yet plainly so destructive ; as it is now become a National Concern, and the ill Consequences arising therefrom universally felt and confessed, we do not doubt but it will be thought worthy the most serious Consideration of the Legislature, and of his most gracious Majesty, the most tender Father of his People.

Joshua Gilbert, FOREMAN.

<i>Francis Cockayne,</i>	<i>William Wilton,</i>
<i>Richard Boyce,</i>	<i>Edward Staple,</i>
<i>Samuel Phillips,</i>	<i>James Combes,</i>
<i>Benjamin Ashwood,</i>	<i>Frederick Cordis,</i>
<i>William Serjeant,</i>	<i>John Hullock,</i>
<i>David Thomas,</i>	<i>John Kelsey,</i>
<i>John Prince,</i>	<i>John Dale,</i>
<i>Edward Hart,</i>	<i>William Clarke,</i>
<i>Henry Rumley,</i>	<i>John Barfoot.</i>

T H E

THE PRESENTMENT

OF THE
Grand-Jury of the Tower-Hamlets,

*To the Right Worshipful Sir JOHN GONSON,
Kt. Chairman, and other his Majesty's Justices
of the Peace for the Liberty of the Tower of
London, and Precincts of the same, assembled
at a General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace for
the same, held by Adjournment, at the Court-
House on Tower-Hill, on Monday the 6th of
October, 1735.*

WE the GRAND-JURY for the Liberty of
the TOWER OF LONDON, and Precincts
thereof, think it our Duty to represent to this
Court, the prodigious Increase in the Numbers
of Shops, and other Places, for Retailing *Gin*,
and *Distilled Liquors*, and the many Enormities that
are occasioned by its being drank by the meaner
Sort of People in this Kingdom, chiefly because
they can be debauched at a very small Expence.

It is with great Trouble that we observe the
Number of *Gin-Shops* not only to multiply in
every publick Street, but also that we find, in
many Places, it is privately sold, and that every
separate Room, in some Houses, is become a
Place for vending *Distilled Liquors*; so that (if
not timely restrained) we fear the Number of the
Sellers

Sellers will soon be near equal to the *Drinkers* of this *General Poison*.

The Effects of these pernicious *Liquors* are, to all sober Christians, a Matter of the highest Abomination: For how often do we hear the Name of the *Great God* prophaned by the intoxicated Drinkers, while they are swallowing down their own Destruction? How often are the publick Streets infested with these abominable Wretches, whose wicked Oaths and Imprecations would endanger the drawing down God's Vengeance on this Kingdom, were it not for his infinite Mercy? How often do we see Women, as well as Men, lying in the very Channels and Corners of Streets like dead Carcasses, generally without Cloaths to protect them from the Inclemency of the Weather, or cover their Nakedness and Shame? How many Breaches of the Peace, dangerous Assaults, and often Murders (of which there is a very late Instance) have been occasion'd by this Deluge of Debauchery?

The Liberty of the *Tower*, indeed, is but of a small Extent, yet it has its Proportion of this Wickedness so prevailing in all Parts of the Town; and our Situation is such, as gives us frequent Opportunities of observing the dismal Effects it has on the *Soldiers*, as well as *Sea-faring Men* of this Kingdom; which, we dread, will enervate them to so great a Degree, that, in a little Time, this Nation will be hardly able to defend, against a foreign Enemy, the Blessings transmitted to us, through many Ages, by the Blood and Treasure of our worthy Predecessors.

Can any thing be more melancholy, than to reflect on the Consequences that must inevitably attend such Degeneracy, in a Nation depending on *Trade*, *Industry*, and *Labour*? What can

atone for the Loss of the useful and laborious Part of this Kingdom, or recover the Imbecility that these inflaming Liquors must occasion to the next Generation? Where shall we get Servants and Persons necessary for Labour? And what can we expect from those we shall be able to get, thus infeebled by the Vices of their Progenitors?

For these and many other Reasons of the last Importance to this Kingdom, We the *Grand-Jury* do present the said Shops, and other Places where *Gin* and *Spirituuous Liquors* are sold by Retail, as publick *Nuisances*, and *Nurseries* of Theft and Debauchery, which are highly displeasing to Almighty God, and destructive to the Persons, Morals, and Properties of great Numbers of his *Majesty's* Subjects.

We therefore rest assured, that your Worships will exert your Power and Authority, by putting the *Laws* in Execution against so tremendous an Evil; and if the *present Laws* shall prove insufficient to redress and exterminate the same, that you will, as much as in you lies, recommend it to the *Legislature*, to provide such Remedy as they, in their great Wisdom, shall think proper.

H. Johnson, FOREMAN.

H. Willoughby,	William Stephens,
H. Umpbrevile,	Samuel Jordan,
Thomas Page,	Chris. Plees,
John Sharpe,	Abra. Feudwine,
John Callow,	John Batten,
John Potter,	William Werden,
Thomas Chantry,	John Linton,
John Rothery,	John Woodcock,
James Farley,	Nath. Rothery.

T H E

THE
REPORT
OF

His Majesty's Justices of the Peace,

At Hicks's-Hall, January-Sessions, 1735-6,

To His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for
the County of Middlesex, in their General
Quarter-Sessions assembled.

IN pursuance of an ORDER made at the last
QUARTER-SESSIONS held for this County,
whereby it was referred to Us, among Others,
to inform ourselves of the Number both of *licensed*
and *unlicensed Houses, Shops, and Places*, within
the *Weekly Bills of Mortality*, and Parts adjacent,
in this County, where GENEVA, and other Di-
stilled Spirituous Liquors are sold by Retail, and
to enquire into the Mischiefs occasioned thereby ;
We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do
hereby certify, That by the Returns of the *High*
Constable for Westminster, and *Petty Constables for*
Holborn, the Tower, and Finsbury Division, made
on their Oaths, there appears to be within the
Limits aforesaid, (exclusive of *London and South-*
wark) 7044 Houses and Shops, wherein *Geneva*
and other *Distilled Spirituous Liquors* are publicly
sold by Retail : And although this Number is

exceeding great, and far beyond all Proportion to the real Wants of the Inhabitants, being, in some Parishes, at least *every sixth House* ; We have, nevertheless, very great Reason to believe it is very far short of the true Number, there being many who sell privately in *Garrets, Cellars, back Rooms*, and other Places not publickly exposed to View, and which therefore escaped the Notice of our Officers ; and your COMMITTEE, on comparing the Returns of some Wards with others, and also with former Returns of the same Nature, are firmly persuaded there has been great *Negligence and Remisness* in several of their Officers on this Occasion ; and as, upon Enquiry into the respective Trades and Callings of the several *Constables*, it appears to us, that near half of those employed in this Enquiry are *Retailers* of these Liquors themselves, it is greatly to be feared, they have been too easily satisfied in their Enquiry, without making that diligent Search, or using the Means necessary and proper for their Information on this Occasion. And though your COMMITTEE, in several Instances, think themselves justified in making this Observation, they will mention at present only one, which is the Return from *Portugal-Ward, Westminster* ; by which Return of the *Constable*, who is himself a *Retailer*, it appears, that only 21 at present deal in these Liquors, in the said Ward ; though, by a Return made from the said Ward, Ten Years ago, there were found 90 in the said Ward, who sold these Liquors by Retail.

In this Number of 7044 are included such *Vitruallers*, who sell *Geneva*, or other Strong Waters, as well as *Ale* and *Beer* ; tho' 'tis highly probable, from the great *Decay*, visible for some Years past, of the *Brewing Trade*, without any
Diminu-

Diminution in the Number of Victuallers, that the Quantity of Strong Waters now drunk in Ale-houses is vastly increased, of late Years, beyond what was formerly usual: And it appears by the Constables Returns, who have taken Care to distinguish the Victuallers who also sell Spirituous Liquors, from those who deal only in those Liquors, that the Number of the latter considerably exceeds the former; the former, as appears by the Returns, amounts to 3209, the latter to 3835; of which Numbers added together, 4939 are licensed, 2105 are unlicensed.

It is with the deepest Concern your COMMITTEE observe the strong Inclination of the inferior Sort of People to these destructive Liquors, and how surprizingly this *Infection* has spread within these few Years; not only the Vicious and Immoral give in to this Practice, but those also, who, to all Appearance, are, in other respects, sober and regular; not only one Person here and there in a Family, but whole Families, shamefully and constantly indulge themselves in this pernicious Practice; *Fathers* and *Masters*, *Children* as well as *Servants*. And whereas the Retail Trade of Wine and Ale is generally confined to Vintners and Victuallers, this of *Geneva* is now sold, not only by Distillers, and Geneva Shops, but by above Fourscore other inferior Trades, as appears by the Constables Returns; particularly by all *Chandlers*, many *Weavers*, several *Tobacconists*, *Shoemakers*, *Carpenters*, *Barbers*, *Tailors*, *Dyers*, *Labourers*, and others, there being in the Hamlet of *Bethnal-Green* upwards of Ninety *Weavers* who sell this Liquor: by which Means this Temptation, great as it is now become, is always near at hand; and it is scarce possible for Persons in low Life to go anywhere,

where, or to be anywhere, without being drawn in to taste, and, by Degrees, to like and approve of this pernicious Liquor.

Your COMMITTEE, after having used the most proper Methods which occurred to them, in order to know the Number of these Houses, proceeded to enquire, according to your Directions, into the Mischiefs arising from thence, and from the immoderate Use of these Liquors, and more-especially of *Geneva* : And these, to their great Concern, appear to be of the highest Nature, and most lasting Consequences, affecting not only particular Persons and Families, but also the Trade of the Nation, and the Publick Welfare. With respect to particular Persons, it deprives them of their *Money, Time, Health, and Understanding* ; weakens and destroys their natural Strength and Constitutions, and thereby renders them useless to themselves, as well as to the Community : And when their Spirits are raised by drinking to Excess, they are often carried to a Degree of outrageous Passion, and become bold and daring in committing *Robberies*, and other *Offences*, for an immediate Livelihood.

Farther : They who indulge themselves in this pernicious Custom, are thereby rendered incapable of hard Labour, as well as indisposed to it ; their Health is ruined, and their Lives, by Degrees, destroyed : Besides the fatal Effects it has on their *Morals and Religion*, being generally so stupified, that it is difficult to find Time to give any Advice to such Persons ; or, if a proper Time is ever found, the good Effects or Impressions of what may have been said, are presently effaced and washed away, by a Dram or two of this pernicious Liquor.

With

With regard to the FEMALE SEX, we find the Contagion has spread even among them, and that to a Degree hardly possible to be conceived. Unhappy *Mothers* habituate themselves to these Distilled Liquors, whose *Children* are born weakly and sickly, and often look *shrivel'd and old*, as though they had number'd many Years : Others, again, daily give it to their Children, whilst young, and learn them, even before they can go, to taste and approve of this great and certain Destroyer : And with respect to the Women themselves, it has this farther ill Effect, That, by inflaming their Blood, and stupifying their Senses, they expose themselves an easy Prey to the Attacks of vicious Men.

With regard to their *Families*, this pernicious Liquor is equally fatal ; whilst the *Husband*, and perhaps his *Wife* also, are drinking and spending their Money in Geneva-Shops, their Children are starved and naked at Home, without Bread or Cloaths, and either become a Burden to their Parishes, or being suffered to ramble about the Streets, are forced to beg whilst they are Children, and learn, as they grow up, to pilfer and steal ; which your COMMITTEE conceive to be the chief Causes of the vast Increase of *Thieves* and *Pilferers* of all Kinds ; and may be the true Reason why the Youth, for some Years last past, have been observed sooner to grow vicious, and to throw off all Regard to Laws both human and divine.

We would here farther observe, That, rather than go without this destructive Liquor, Custom having made the Habit so strong upon them, they will even pawn their own and Childrens Cloaths, and cheat by all the Ways and Means
they

they can devise to raise Money on this Occasion ; the usual and almost certain Consequence of which is, the *Husband* is thrown into a *Gaol*, and his whole *Family* on the *Parish*. And this your COMMITTEE conceive to be one of the principal Causes of the great Increase of Beggars, and Parish Poor, notwithstanding the high Wages now given to all Sorts of Workmen and Servants.

And, lastly, with regard to TRADE, and the PUBLICK WELFARE, the Consequences are visibly ruinous and destructive, and will be every Day more and more felt and perceived.

It has been already observed, That the constant Use of *Strong Waters*, and particularly of *Geneva*, never fails to produce an invincible Aversion to Work and Labour : This, by necessary Consequence, deprives us of great Numbers of useful Hands, which would otherwise be employed to the Advantage of the Publick. And as to those who yet do work sometimes, or follow any Employment, the Loss of their Time in frequent Tipling, the getting often drunk in a Morning, and the spending of their Money this Way, must very much straighten them, and so far diminish their Trade, and the Profit which would accrue from thence to the Publick, as well as to themselves.

It appears, as has been already mentioned, that great Numbers of *Weavers*, and other Persons of inferior Trades concerned in our Manufactures, deal in these Liquors : And as they generally employ many *Journeymen* and *Artificers* under them, this Liquor being thus always ready at hand at their Masters Houses, they are easily tempted to drink freely of it, especially

especially as they may drink the whole Week upon Score, and, too often, without minding how fast the Score runs upon them ; whereby, at the Week's End, they find themselves without any Surplusage to carry Home to their Families, which of Course must starve, or be thrown on the Parish.

Your COMMITTEE also are of Opinion, That the Publick Welfare and Safety of the Nation will be greatly affected by it, considering the strong Inclination in the SOLDIERY to drink freely, and to Excess, of this destructive Liquor. Let any Person pass a Shop where *Geneva* is sold, it is great Odds but that he will find one or more Soldiers, either drinking of, or drunk with these Liquors ; and it is to be feared, the Constitutions and Strength of many of our Soldiers are already greatly impaired by this pernicious Custom ; and how far they may be intirely destroyed, if a Stop is not put to this evil Practice, may be worth Consideration, and is highly to be dreaded.

And we cannot here avoid taking Notice of the bad Influence the permitting of *Chandlers*, and other inferior Trades, to deal in this Liquor, or other Strong Waters, has in this Town on the Servants of the NOBILITY and GENTRY ; it being too common a Practice among *Chandlers* and others where *Servants* are continually going, on one Occasion or other, to tempt and press them to drink, and even to give them Drams of this Liquor ; which, we may reasonably suppose, must be paid for by the MASTER, either in the *Price*, *Weight*, or *Measure* of the Goods they are sent for ; and which, as it does them immediate Damage, and, by Degrees, accustoms

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them

them to this Liquor, so it encourages them to wrong their Masters in great Matters; and we conceive this may be one of the Causes of the great Complaints against Servants.

Your COMMITTEE does admit, that, by the Returns of the Constables, 2105 of those who deal in these Liquors, are not Licens'd. — Should it be objected, Why are these suffered by the Magistrates to go unpunished? — Let it be answered, That whilst they have a FUND, as is generally imagined, to support themselves, and the Expence of defending every Conviction lies on the Magistrate, which is and has been, on these Occasions, very great, besides his Trouble, and Loss of Time, it is not to be expected that the MAGISTRATE should risque his own Fortune on these Occasions; especially when it is considered, that where the Party stands out the three Convictions, the same, when drawn and copied, amounts to above 100 Sheets of Paper.

Your COMMITTEE have already taken Notice, That near half of the present Constables are Victuallers, and Dealers in Spirituous Liquors, and the Difficulties they have, on that Account, lain under in making this Inquiry: And they cannot help taking this Opportunity to observe, That as every other Trade makes Interest to be excus'd serving the said Office, *they* are the only Persons who covet it; which, your COMMITTEE apprehend, must arise from some Profit and Advantage to themselves; and they are therefore of Opinion, the Laws against *Drunkenness*, *Lewdness*, and *Profaneness*, are not so likely to be put in Execution, while *Ale-housekeepers*, and *Retailers of Strong Liquors*, are most commonly the Persons appointed to execute

cute the said Laws, and bring the Offenders to Justice.

Let it be added, That even the *Poor* confined in *Parish Work-houses*, notwithstanding the great Care taken, find frequent Opportunities of coming at these Liquors, there being such great Numbers of Retailers, and a Debauch being to be purchased with the smallest Piece of our Coin.

This Evil must, we think, considering the Greatness of it, and the certain dismal Consequences necessarily attending it to ourselves and Posterity, some time or other find a Remedy. The longer it is delay'd, the greater Number of *Retailers* will, whenever a Remedy happens, be affected in their Trades and Livelihood, and be oblig'd to seek new Methods for supporting themselves and their Families.

In Consequence of this Remedy, *TRADE* must increase with the Labour of the Poor ; our *SOLDIERY* will still be renown'd for their Strength and real Courage ; *SERVANTS* will be more *Obedient, Honest, and Faithful* ; and all Sorts of Persons *in low Life* will become more *Strong and Robust*, better inclin'd to Industry and Labour, and be less induc'd to rob, and commit *Murders and Outrages*, now too common even in the publick Streets : In fine, our Morals will be better secured, and we may, with greater Reason, hope once more to see *Religion, Sobriety, and Industry* flourish among us.

Your COMMITTEE having thus laid before you the Numbers of the Houses and Places wherein *Geneva* and other *Strong Waters* are sold, as also some of the many mischievous Effects derived from thence, and some of the happy Con-

Consequences most likely to attend the Remedy-
ing the Mischiefs complained of, submit to the
Consideration and Judgment of the SESSIONS,
how far it is in their Power, and by what Means
to suppress this great and dangerous Evil ;
or whether any, and what Application to our
SUPERIORS may be proper, in order to a more
effectual Remedy.

*Thomas Lane,
John Millner,
Nicholas Jefferys,
Jacob Harvey,*

*John Mercer,
William Booth,
Anthony Chamberlain,
Merry Teshmaker.*

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F I N I S.

